

## EAGLE POST 48

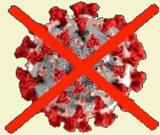
The newsletter of **ESWA - EAGLE SUMMIT WILDERNESS ALLIANCE** apprises you of important activities in and around Eagles Nest, Holy Cross, and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas.

[EagleSummitWilderness.org](http://EagleSummitWilderness.org)

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**BEFORE WE BEGIN...** Naturally, we will not be holding VWR Training Day on June 6 as originally scheduled, but we are hoping that it can take place later in the summer, perhaps August (fingers crossed). Starting Memorial Day, after completion of required re-certification, returning VWRs will be out on patrol (with suitable COVID-19-related precautions). New recruits will have opportunities to accompany VWRs as "apprentices" and will also have digital copies of the newly-revised Training Manual. You can apply [HERE](#).



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** We are hopeful that our four overnight work trips with llamas will occur as originally scheduled. We will continually assess the circumstances.

**July 17-19** -- Upper Cataract Lake trip (with llamas).

**July 31-Aug 2** – Lake Constantine trip (with llamas).

**August 14-16:** Missouri Lakes trip (with llamas)

**August 28-30** – Slate Lakes trip (with llamas)

Have questions or need for information? Send us an [email](#)

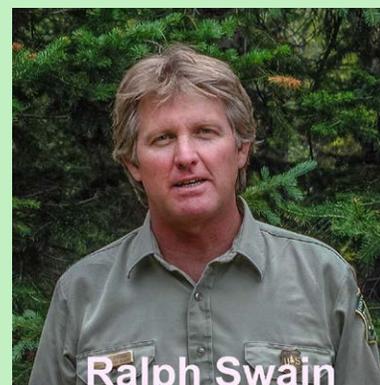


May 2020

Dear \*|FNAME|\*

Greetings! Our topic this month:  
**Pandemic and Wilderness - a centennial**

**By Ralph Swain**



## INTRODUCTION

We mark these trying times with a remarkable double centennial - that of the "Spanish Flu" pandemic and the near-simultaneous birth of the Wilderness movement in the US. **Arthur Carhart** (1892-1978) was intimately involved with both events, as told below by **Ralph Swain**. Ralph, a devoted student of wilderness history, is USFS Manager of 47 Wilderness areas in five states, including Colorado, which of course comprises those areas - Holy Cross, Ptarmigan Peak, and Eagles Nest - that ESWA helps look after.

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## The 1918 Flu Epidemic and Arthur Carhart

BY RALPH SWAIN

At times like these when all of us are contemplating what the new normal might look like, it can be instructive to look back in history to see what we can learn from the past. The 1918 flu epidemic offers some insightful connections to wilderness and one of our first wilderness champions, Arthur Carhart.

**Spanish Flu, 1918. Family Portrait, including cat**



Many incorrectly referred to the 1918 flu as the Spanish flu because Spain's government was one of the first to announce the spread of the devastating virus. The first American infections occurred in American soldiers fighting in the trenches in World War I in Europe. Many soldiers died after the flu spread rapidly through close quarters. In total, approximately 50 million people died from the 1918 flu epidemic worldwide, of which 675,000 died in the United States (Abbott et. al., 2006).

Arthur Carhart graduated from Iowa State College in 1916 as a Landscape Architect and entered the Army in September 1917. The Army did not send Carhart to war in Europe, but instead stationed him at Camp Meade near Washington DC to oversee the health and sanitation of the military training camp where the spread of the flu and diseases were a major concern. He served as a First Lieutenant in the Sanitary Corps. Carhart actually came down with the deadly influenza in the fall of 1918, but his newlywed wife, Vee, nursed him "instead of having to tough it out in the camp hospital" (Wolf, 2008).

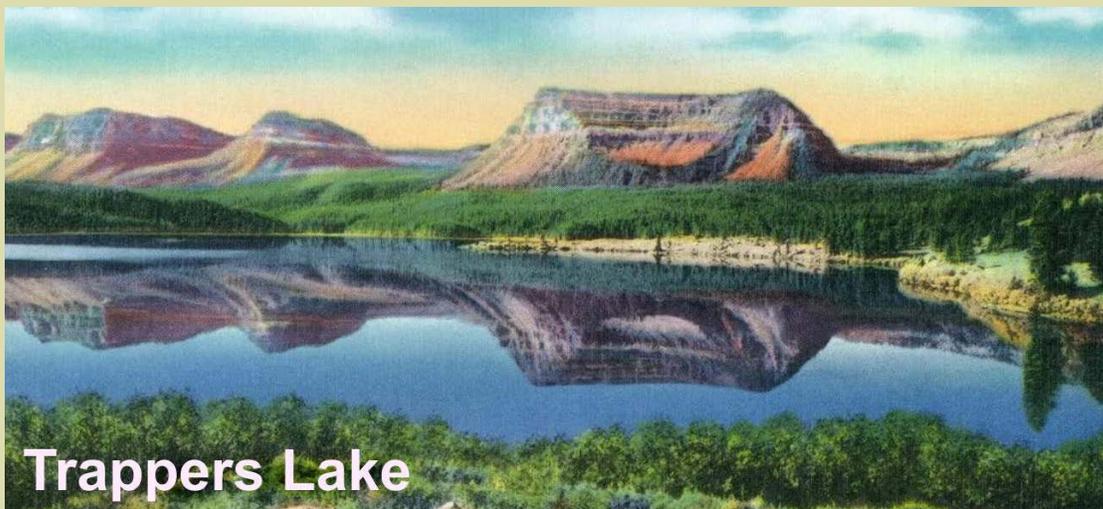
Following his recovery, the Forest Service hired Carhart as the first Recreation Engineer (dubbed beauty engineer) in District 2 (called Region 2 today) in March 1919. One of Carhart's first assignments was to travel to [Trappers Lake](#) in the summer of 1919 to draw up plans

for several hundred home sites and a road around the lake. The summer homes were to be leased by the Forest Service to private citizens under the new 1915 Term Permit Act. Upon his return to the Denver Office, Carhart recommended to his supervisor, Carl J. Stahl, that (1) no homes or road be built, or if leases had to be allowed, (2) the home sites would be set back from the lake and screened by the forest trees. He strongly felt that,

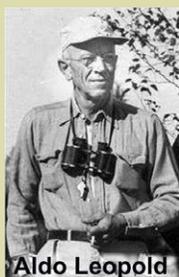
“...these areas can never be restored to the original condition after man has invaded them, and the greatest value lying as it does in natural scenic beauty.... Time will come when these scenic spots, where nature has been allowed to remain unmarred, will be some of the most highly prized scenic features of the country” (Baldwin, 1972).



**Arthur Carhart**  
Saganaga Lake, MN, June 1921, now the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness



## Trappers Lake



On December 6, 1919, the Denver Office held a meeting with another wilderness champion, **Aldo Leopold**, the Assistant District Forester who was urging his bosses in District 3 (Region 3) to set aside the [Gila Wilderness](#) for preservation in its natural condition before roads and development ruined the wild country. From that meeting and the visionary thinking of champions like Carhart and Leopold, the wilderness concept was born. (Click [HERE](#) to read Carhart's summary of the meeting.)

However, Carhart's vision of providing public land access to the returning soldiers and the American people did not end at Trappers Lake. Later, in 1919 and early 1920, Carhart drew up plans for development of the first "health" camp (as he liked to call them) at Squirrel Creek on the San Isabel National Forest west of Pueblo. His health camps would

provide auto camp conveniences – the forerunner to today's Forest Service campgrounds.

The flu, which started on the East Coast in America, spread to Colorado by late September during the deadlier second wave of the virus where it sickened a dozen soldiers-trainees at a military training camp in Boulder and quickly spread to Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo. In total, the flu killed approximately 8,000 people in Colorado from September 1918 to late January 1919. Reports of flu deaths continued until December 1920.

Today, as we contemplate our future and the benefits we derive from wilderness, we can thank wilderness leaders like Arthur Carhart and Aldo Leopold. They inspire us to take pleasure in things remaining “normal” like hearing birds chirping and the sounds of nature, seeing wildlife roaming free in wild places without roads and development and gazing in awe at beautiful sunsets that remind us of why we care so much for wilderness.

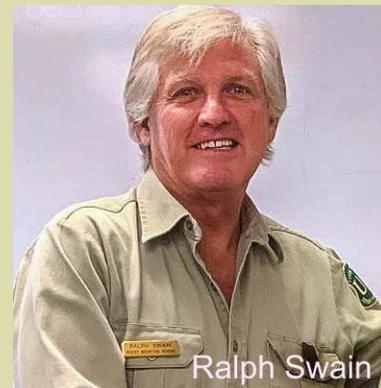
#### REFERENCES:

- \* Abbott, Carl, Leonard, Stephen J., Noel, Thomas J., Colorado: A History of the Centennial State, Fourth Edition, 2005
- \* Baldwin, Donald N., The Quiet Revolution: Grass Roots of Today's Wilderness Preservation Movement, Pruett Publishing Company, 1972
- \* Wolf, Tom, Arthur Carhart: Wilderness Prophet, University Press of Colorado, 2008

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### ABOUT RALPH SWAIN

Ralph Swain is the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region (Region 2) Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Program Manager in Lakewood, Colorado. He started his FS career as a firefighter on a hot shot crew in California and has worked in wilderness as a trail crew foreman, wilderness ranger, and District and Forest Wilderness Manager in California, Montana and Colorado. Ralph has also worked with protected area managers on international assignments in Belize, Mexico, South Africa, Russia, Romania and the country of Georgia.

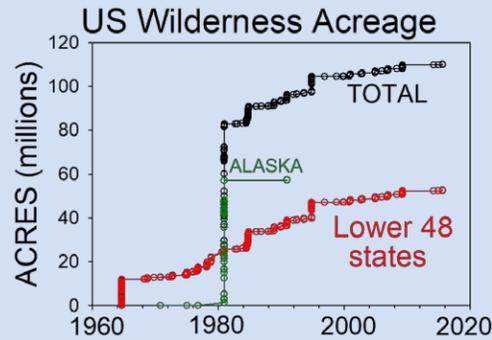


### POSTSCRIPT - SINCE THEN:

The descendents of both the pandemic and the Wilderness movement are still very much with us, shifting, drifting, evolving. The 1918 virus - "the mother of all influenza pandemics" - didn't disappear entirely after the 1918 pandemic faded, but morphed again and again, persisting in pigs, birds, and humans, undergoing both gradual and abrupt mutagenic changes, causing annual epidemics. Fortunately, its virulence declined over time, but despite knowing the full sequence of the 1918 viral genome, we still cannot identify precisely the molecular determinants of its terrible toll. Curiously, the 1918

pandemic spared the old (they accounted for less than 1% of deaths), perhaps because they had been exposed to a viral precursor in their youth.

NOTE: Today's novel coronavirus is a newbie, not related genetically to the influenza virus.



Like the virus, the wilderness movement evolved over the ensuing century. By the mid-1930s the efforts of Carhart and many others led to the creation of The Wilderness Society, and thirty years later the movement reached its apotheosis with the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, and the protection of millions of acres of Wilderness soon followed.



A huge thanks to [ARAPAHOE BASIN SKI AREA](#). For more than two decades, A-Basin staff have donated generously to their **Employee Environmental Fund**, of which ESWA has been a steady beneficiary. Last year, more than 150 employees donated, led by A-Basin Director **Alan Henceroth**. Our enduring THANKS!

Make a donation to ESWA...



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Check out other [recent monthly eNewsletters](#)



The Spring-Summer 2020 hard copy newsletter is in production.

We'll mail out copies in early May - it will be chock full of information about our 2020 season. If you didn't receive by mail last November's issue, then *we don't have your*

Follow us



Join us! Next **Planning Meeting Thursday, MAY 14** at 5:30 PM, The meeting will probably be held virtually, via Zoom. Join us via internet with one click: <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/4732124622>

Full logon information (e.g., phone-in) is at [zoom\\_join\\_meeting.pdf](#)

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December 10, 1919.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LEOPOLD, DISTRICT 3.

This memorandum is to <sup>Supplement</sup> ~~explain~~ some conversation between myself and Mr. Leopold, which happened on December 6th.

There are no notes available in this office on this question, so it is thought best to cooperate in this from some observation relative to the problem discussed. The problem spoken of in this conversation was, how far shall the Forest Service carry or allow to be carried man made improvements in scenic territories, and whether there is not a definite point where all such developments, with the exception of perhaps lines of travel and necessary sign boards, shall stop. The Forest Service, it seems to me, is obligated to make the greatest return from the total forests to the people of the Nation that is possible. This, the Service has endeavored to do in the case of timber utilization, grazing, watershed protection and other activities. There is, however, a great wealth of recreational facilities and scenic values within the Forests, which have not been so utilized, and at the present time the Service is face to face with a question of big policies, big plans, and big utilization for these values and areas.

Returns from the Forests cannot be counted in total in terms of dollars and cents in the case of the aesthetic qualities within the Forests, and it is therefore rather difficult to judge just how this greater utilization can best be accomplished. It is comparatively easy to see the direct return to the individual and the Nation throughout utilization of Forest areas for summer homes, camping grounds, and picnic spots, but it is almost impossible to reduce to a money basis the value returned to a Forest visitor when viewing the country from an especially scenic auto road, scenic trail, or outlook. It is, therefore, a concrete cash argument for utilization of scenic areas for the purposes of picnic grounds, summer homes, etc., as opposed to a preservation of the grounds in a natural state because of scenic qualities.

There enters in here a feature which has been long recognized by landscape architects and city planners, which has not come to the attention of the general public or men of other professions. Landscape architects have continuously contended that there are scenic values and recreational areas of unusual beauty serving a great public need, which were never intended for private holdings. This has been recognized in some of the more congested areas of the country, and immense sums of money have been paid by municipalities, counties, and states, to secure shore lines on lakes or rivers, which had passed from under the control of the general public, and were held by individuals. There is a limit to the

number of lands of shore line on the lakes; there is a limit to the number of lakes in existence; there is a limit to the mountainous areas of the world, and in each one of these situations there are portions of natural scenic beauty which are God made, and the beauties of which of a right should be the property of all people.

There are in the Forests at the present time many such places in which the title is still vested in the Government of the United States, and in the Forest Service, representing this government and the people of the Nation. If these areas are allowed to go into the hands of private individuals, or if they are even built on for summer home purposes, the use is in the measure restricted to individuals or a group. The same conditions then follow, as is found in the cases cited where lands were bought back, that is the presence of the man made structures, the presence of a population, the monopolization of the scenery by those people living in those situations, react against the visitor in such a way that the fullest return of scenic and aesthetic values is not realized. It would be difficult to estimate just how much a group of dwellings in an especially scenic area would reduce the aesthetic value. There are several cases in Colorado where this can be measured to some extent by a comparative study, particularly the great canon of the Big Thompson represents the case where private holdings defeat the beauties of the canon. There are a number of other cases which can be outlined in comparison to represent the types where the scenic beauty is unspoiled. On this basis I would say that for me the aesthetic value of the Big Thompson Canon has been reduced not less than eighty percent.

There are great values of this type to be found in the several forests of the Nation, which in order to return the greatest total value to the people, not only of the Nation, but of the world should be preserved and protected from the marring features of man made constructions. These areas can never be restored to the original condition after man has invaded them, and the great value lying as it does in natural scenic beauty should be available, not for the small group, but for the greatest population. Time will come when these scenic spots, where nature has been allowed to remain unmarred, will be some of the most highly prized scenic features of the country, and unless the Forest Service has thoroughly exerted all influences possible to preserve these areas, severe criticism will some day be meted out by the collective owners of this territory to the public. So on the one hand there is an obligation to fulfill, based on the reasoning that certain areas of so great value as to be rightfully always the property of the entire public, and on the other there is need of the Service taking a broad, farseeing attitude in order that it may be prepared to meet the demands in the future.

There are other areas which are not necessarily superlative, but which should be preserved on this same basis. There will ever be a demand on the part of the people of the United States to be able to get into a part of the country which is undeveloped. There is no place particularly suited for such territory than is in the possession of the National Forest.

It is probable that great areas of medium scenic countries shall be preserved without any intrusion of civilization in order that there shall always be some great area to which the lover of the outdoors can turn without being confronted by a settlers cabin, country store, telephone pole, or other sign of frontier civilization. This loving of the outdoors in the untouched conditions is evidenced by the number of people who travel to out of the way places to spend their vacations. In some individuals this desire for undeveloped country is especially marked. This is true, for example, of the Arctic Explorers, who endure great hardships on these trips. Other travelers of note, as for example, our late Ex-President Roosevelt, Paul J. Rainey, and others, show this desire for living in undeveloped regions. It is probably true that a big percentage of people of the United States have this craving for outdoor life in untouched regions to a <sup>less marked</sup> ~~rational~~ extent. These trait of the Nation should be given consideration right along with the other traits, which at times demand telephone and telegraph lines, modern plumbing, and other conveniences.

I have jotted down four different types of areas, which should probably not contain summer homes, perhaps no camp sites, and other like ~~no~~ developments. First of these is the superlative area; the second is the area unsuited for any camp and summer home development, such as the high ridge of a mountain range; third is the area which should be preserved for the group rather than the individual, such as lake shores, stream banks, or such a natural feature as medicinal springs; fourth group would include areas not in these three groups, but which represent those God made and of the greatest use of any owned by the Government. There is no question in my mind but what there is <sup>for preservation</sup> definite point in different types of country where man made structures should be stopped. How best to arrive at a definition of this point, or how best to come to a decision on these areas to be preserved is a question with me.

The Forest Service could well take the whole responsibility and while there might be some criticism on the part of some individuals, who suffered slight disappointment for the good of the larger group, the majority of the total would approve of such action. Or the Forest Service might ask the State to appoint an Art Commission or some such body to cooperate in designating areas which shall be preserved and protected in untouched conditions.

Or the National Society, formed to study rural planning and landscape architecture, might assist by naming a committee to cooperate throughout the whole country with the Service. At present it is probable that the Service will have to take the entire initiative on this work, and I believe that immediately.

The question of how best to do this is perhaps the real question, rather than shall it be done.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William H. Calkins". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'W' and 'H'.

Recreation Engineer.