Happy Birthday Hazel Lou!

On January 17, 1917 Hazel Lucia Humphrey, Hazel Lou as she was called, was born in Denver, Colorado. She lived with her family in Denver until she was three years old. Then, in 1920, her parents bought property they named Kinnikinick Ranch. At first Hazel Lou wasn’t sure she was going to like staying on the ranch. Compared to her house in Denver the house at the ranch was “…a shack”, she wrote. “The roof leaked, the windows were shattered, big holes in the floor allowed squirrels to poke their heads up, and the place was full of bedbugs.” Most frightening to Hazel Lou was the open ladder leading to her room on the second floor.

But her parents began working on the ranch and over the years, the ranch underwent many renovations. Two storage rooms and a bath were added, all of the same hand-hewn logs as the main building from an old barn on the property. A screened porch later became a laundry room and back entry. The old homesteaders’ cabin was dismantled and carefully rebuilt as a guest room. A playhouse was built for Hazel Lou, a Summer House for sleeping on hot summer nights, a croquet court, and a Porte-cochere for her father’s car. By 1921 there were so many great things to do, Hazel Lou loved living on the ranch!

School Days

Hazel Lou was just like any other child and attended school. Hazel Lou started school in a one room school house called the Soda Creek School. She went to school with kids of all ages. There were two teachers in the school. Children in the 1920’s and 1930’s learned many of the same school subjects that are still taught today. Grammar, Arithmetic (Math), Reading and Writing were all a part of the school day.

The story in the Humphrey family is that Hazel Lou eventually became home schooled by one of the teachers from the Soda Creek School. The story says that she was home schooled because the kids at school picked on Hazel Lou because of her vegetarianism, which was considered odd during her time and extremely weird since she lived on a ranch. Some versions of the story also say she was picked on because of her family’s “wealthy” life style.

Do You Love Animals?

Hazel Lou loved all animals. She grew up helping to care for and playing with many animals on the Kinnikinick Ranch. She had dogs that would let her play with them in her wagon. She learned to ride horses and, as she grew up, she became an accomplished horse woman. There were also chickens, goats and cats on the Ranch. All the animals had a home to live in, even the cats had a home called a “cattery” next to Hazel Lou’s playhouse. Hazel Lou loved all the animals on the Kinnikinick Ranch!

It was this love of the animals that made the Humphrey’s way of life unique compared to other ranches in the area. The Humphrey’s were vegetarians. They did not raise their animals to eat but instead used products from the animals to eat like goats’ milk and chicken eggs to have as food without harming the animals.

When I Grow Up I Want to Be...

When Hazel Lou grew up she followed her love of art and history. Hazel Lou had finished her traditional education and went on to attend college at the Denver University (DU) where she majored in Art. She enjoyed painting and anything artistic. She even made some of the stone pieces that are in the garden.

Besides art, Hazel Lou also spent her adult life pursuing other things she loved and supported. She was an active member of the League of Women Voters, Evergreen Women’s Club, belonged to the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Society of Colonial Dames and was key in organizing the Jefferson County Historical Society.
Key to Ranch Sites
1 Smoke House & Clothes Line
2 Teacherage
3 Outdoor Cooking Kettle
4 Teacherage Garage
   (currently our Par-Tea House)
5 Reconstructed Barn & Garage
   (currently our Visitor’s Center)
6 Animal Enclosure & Restored Goatry
7 Double Nikl Picnic & Play Area
8 Woodpile

Key to Humphrey Grounds
9 Humphrey Home
10 Cattery/Garden Shed
11 Hazel Lou’s Play House
12 Three-Seat Outhouse
13 Garage & Model A
14 Bell Display
15 Porte-cochere
16 English Garden
17 Terrace
18 Summer House
19 Croquet Court
20 Humphrey Brand on Hill
21 Trail Head

Tours start here. Make sure and check out Hazel Lou’s room.
The Smoke House:
Hazel Lou and her family were vegetarians, so why is there a smoke house on the ranch? The teacher that lived on Kinnikinnick Ranch and home schooled Hazel Lou were not vegetarians. In order to have meat for the winter, they needed a smoke house to dry the meat.

The Clothes Line:
When Hazel Lou and her family first lived on the ranch it was in a time before washing machines and dryers. Clothes were washed by hand and hung on the clothes lines to dry. Girls were expected to help with the clothes and cleaning. Traditional 1930’s clothes hang on the clothes line. Notice anything special about the clothes pins? Some of them have white tips. These were for hanging whites, so that the colors did not “bleed” and discolor the other clips. Everyone is encouraged to practice hanging the clothes on the line as well as dress up in the clothes. How have clothes changed compared to what we wear today?

2 Teacherage
Originally this house was home to the two teachers from the Soda Creek School. It also served as a place to teach Hazel Lou once she started being home schooled. Today the Teacherage is still a place of learning. Check out our schedule of classes offered through out the year. There’s no traditional education classes here, instead there are classes about making cheese, country living and many other courses that are just fun!

In good weather the porch of the Teacherage has games that Hazel Lou and children of her time would have played. Do you recognize many of these favorite games?

3 Outdoor Cooking Kettle and Water Pump
Why is there a big pot, called a Kettle, hanging outside? During the summer people would often cook outside because there was no air conditioning. If you cooked inside you made the whole house even hotter than it was outside. The kettle was used to not only make food for large groups of people and canning, but also for making lye soap. Lye soap was used for washing both people and clothes. It was made out of lye and lard. Lye comes from ashes of wood burning stoves and lard comes from animal fat. Can you believe that soap helped you to get clean with ash and fat? It sounds gross and messy!! But that was how they made soap and it worked!

Before running water came to the ranch, water was pumped from an underground well. Here our pump, bucket and ladle show how you would have retrieved water long ago. The pump works, but please do not turn it on as it has a very high pressure to it. However, feel free to see how heavy a buck of water is and how the dipper would have been used to ladle out water.

Can you imagine how many buckets of water you would have had to fetch to have a bath tub full of water?

4 Teacherage Garage
Could you imagine having your teacher live right next to your house? The building between the Teacherage and barn used to be a garage for the teacher’s car. It has since been remodeled into a Par-Tea (Party) room. We hold kid friendly tea parties here! Ask for more information.

5 Reconstructed Barn & Garage
The garage has a farm truck for hauling hay and animal supplies. It is different than trucks of today. Can you name four things and guess why?

6 Animal Enclosure
This enclosure is home to chickens, just like it was when Hazel Lou was a child. The chickens provided the Humphreys with eggs. Stores were not like they are today and many people had to raise food on their ranches.

7 Double Nikl Picnic & Play Area
The picnic area is a great place for kids. It contains 1920’s play equipment that would have been at a school like Hazel Lou attended. Read more about this site by the tree house.

8 Wood Pile
Before electricity, wood was important not only to build things out of, but also to heat the houses in the fire places and cook on the wood stove. It also would have been used to heat the outdoor kettle in area #3. When Hazel Lou was a child, she would not have been allowed to help cut wood. Hazel Lou’s father, Lee, would have cut the wood for the family. If Hazel Lou would have had a brother, it would have been his chore to help the father cut wood.

10 Cattery & Garden Shed
What do you think a Cattery is? A Cattery is a name for a home for cats. Hazel Lou loved cats as you can see in her collection of cats in her bedroom. Cats are useful animals to have on a ranch because they help catch the mice. We still keep this tradition today and have two cats on the ranch.

11 Hazel Lou’s Play House
Hazel Lou was a kid just like you and she loved to play games in her playhouse. You will find her playhouse filled with games and items from when she was little. Children are encouraged to play in the playhouse just as Hazel Lou did in her time and compare those games to those of today.

12 Three-Seat Outhouse
Before there was indoor plumbing, people had to go outside to use the bathroom. If that wasn’t odd enough, you should have seen what Hazel Lou had for toilet paper! One was a corn cob and another was pages from a catalog! Stop by the outhouse and see for yourself.

13 The Family Garage & Model A
Hazel Lou’s father, Lee, drove all the way to Denver to work at a newspaper. It took two hours! He would arrive home and park his car in the garage. Do your parents drive a long way to work?

14-19 Garden Walk
The Humphreys spent much of the summer months in the gardens, summer house and croquet court. There is an original set of wrought iron furniture on the terrace, #17, for you to sit and enjoy the gardens and do the puzzles in this guide.
Mission and Vision Statements

Our mission is to tell the story of the life and times of the Humphrey family and their home, the Kinnikinick Ranch.

The Humphrey Memorial Park and Museum’s goal is to preserve and interpret the mountain heritage of Colorado to a diverse public. Our vision is to present living history experiences that engage, entertain and educate our visitors on the history and challenges our mountain founders faced through the story of the Humphrey family.

Visitors interact with daily activities in the original Humphrey home, garage, play house, teacherage, teacherage garage; reconstructed barn and animal pens; and restored flower and vegetable gardens.

Humphrey History Park and Museum
A Place to Remember
620 Soda Creek Road
Evergreen, CO 80439
303-674-5429
www.hmpm.org

Hazel Lou’s Unscramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

Help the Adults Around You Remember the Rules

Museum Manners

The museum is a very special place, a home for rare objects and memories. One of the ways to ensure a positive experience is to use appropriate manners. So, please stay at arm’s length away from objects. Do not handle the museum collections, touch the woodwork or sit on the furniture. Some people like to fold their arms or put their hands behind their backs to help them remember. It is only acceptable to “touch” with your eyes, not with your hands. Even the cleanest hands leave fingerprints that can leave oils, salts, and acids that can damage the collections. Walk respectfully throughout the museum and speak in quiet tones to not disturb other visitors. A museum visit can be very exciting; just remember to be courteous of other visitors.