

The Rise and Fall of Boulder's Legendary

Harvest House Hotel



*Vintage postcard features an architectural drawing of the Harvest House Hotel. Back reads, "Harvest House, Boulder's Country Club Hotel."
Carnegie Library for Local History/Museum of Boulder Collection.*

By Carol Ellen Taylor

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The Rise and Fall of Boulder's Legendary Harvest House Hotel

For Otis, who showed me the real Boulder.

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Part 1

In Exact Harmony

In 1959, the manager of the brand-new Harvest House Hotel promised Boulder a successful venture. Furthermore, he said that the hotel planned to operate 'in exact harmony with Boulder.'

"It is anticipated that the Harvest House will be the mecca for the area's social functions; the center of the community's 'town and gown' activities; the headquarters for conventions, conferences and group meetings, enhanced by the background of the University with faculty program participation; and the leading business and week-end or winter-sports holiday hostelry about," Art Bazata declared.

Bazata's predictions came true. The hotel building itself became a recognized example of modernist architecture in the city, and the events held at the hotel reflected the most pivotal social history in Boulder.

Yet, in the long run, it wouldn't be enough to save the hotel from demolition.

Big Science

In the 1950s, Boulder, a small city situated in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, was in transition. For decades Boulder had been a quiet college town filled with local businesses for employment. Now the city was booming with a new economy based on the science and technology of the Atomic Age. In fact, Boulder was on its way

to being a world-class center for cutting-edge atmospheric science. The Harvest House Hotel would become an important part of the new era.



Before the Harvest House Hotel. Carnegie Library for Local History.

In 1948, due to the tireless work from Francis 'Franny' Reich, Secretary-Manager of the Boulder Chamber of Commerce, Boulder was chosen for the National Bureau of Standards' new Central Radio Propagation Laboratory. It was quite a coup for little Boulder to be selected over towns like Charlottesville, Virginia and Palo Alto, California, the home of Stanford University. Citizens of Boulder rejoiced. The future looked very bright for the city's economy and, on top of that, young people needn't leave Boulder to secure good jobs.

Beech Aircraft's Aerospace division, Ball Brothers Research (now Ball Corporation), the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the International Business Machines Corporation

(IBM) followed soon after the NBS opening. The state's flagship University of Colorado (CU) responded to the opportunities of the Atomic Age, as well, by constructing new science facilities in the 1950s. The Denver-Boulder Turnpike opened in 1952, bringing business and more automobile tourism to town.

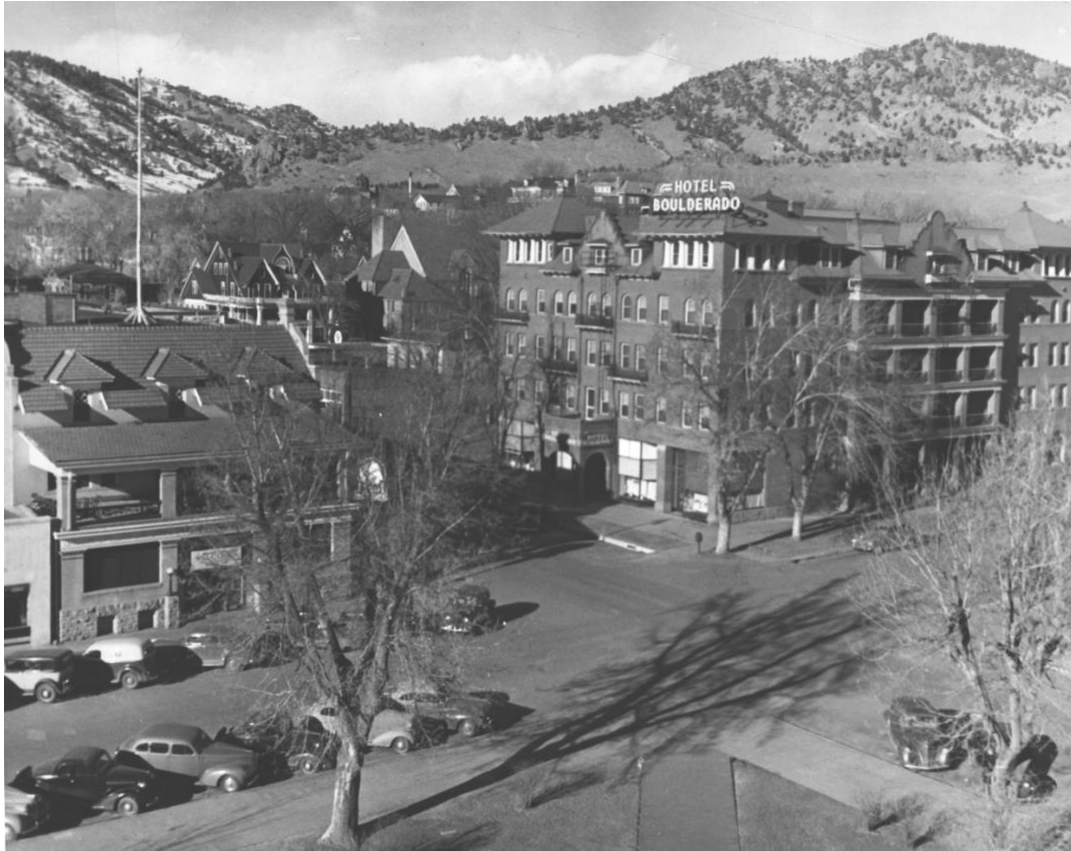
Although there were several motels on Arapahoe Avenue, the missing piece for this new economy was a significant hotel to take advantage of the Atomic Age —with space for conventions and also to serve as a stop for summer tourists. Boulder needed a modern highway hotel. But many pieces had to come together for Boulder to get a hotel to keep up with the times.



*View from the southwest of the Mountain View Golf Course, circa 1940s.
Carnegie Library for Local History.*

To say the city badly needed a hotel was not an overstatement. At the time, the downtown Hotel Boulderado, that opened in 1909, was a faded Victorian beauty. In her

book *Legend of a Landmark*, historian Silvia Pettem quoted a former owner who noted that the hotel had been let go, and by 1960, it was a “rundown, dirty old place.”



*The Hotel Boulderado in the 1940s.
Carnegie Library for Local History/Museum of Boulder Collection.*

Part of the stained-glass ceiling had collapsed after a Halloween snowstorm in 1959 and the rest was removed. The gaping hole was covered in Plexiglas. Some of the hotel's long-term tenants were illegally cooking on hotplates in their rooms. Later, in the late 1960s, hippies regularly sneaked into the hotel to bathe and sleep. Simply put, the

Boulderado was unfit for recommending to out-of-town guests or for holding the conferences and banquets that the growing city desired.

Before Development

In 1868, Charles P. Hamblin homesteaded 160 acres of land that he bought for cash under the 1820 Land Act, when Colorado was still a Territory. Ray Austin, listed as a hay and grain dealer in the city directory, eventually purchased the land and was its first developer. In 1936, Austin built the 9-hole Mountain View Golf Course, along with restaurant and his home became the clubhouse. Outside the city of Boulder limits, the 37-acre site sat on the corner of Arapahoe Avenue and 28th Street, with borders of Boulder Creek and 24th Street (now Folsom Street), and came with a magnificent view of the Flatirons. The golf course was a lovely place for a day of leisure, but in 1954 Austin received an offer that was too good to refuse.



*Mountain View Golf Course players by Boulder Creek, circa 1940s.
Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.*

Texas Millionaires

Texas brothers John D. Murchison and Clinton Murchison, Jr. from Dallas saw Colorado as a land of opportunity for their financial interests. Their father Clint Murchison Sr., known as a big wheeler-dealer, made the May 24, 1954 cover of *TIME* magazine, under the banner, "Those Texas Millionaires." While Clint Sr. was wheeling and dealing in the oil business, his sons were primarily invested in real estate developments and finance. The brothers began investing in Colorado in the early 1950s with developments including the twenty-two-story Denver Club skyscraper, the 28-story First National Bank Building in Denver, the Royal Gorge Bridge, (a tourist attraction in

Canon City), and a one-quarter ownership in a uranium mine near Gunnison. (They also helped form the Dallas Cowboys in 1960 and owned 95 percent of the football team.)

They must have been eyeing Boulder for some time, as John Murchison made the largest purchase of Denver-Boulder Turnpike bonds. The road would provide a direct route from Denver to his future state-of-the-art highway hotel and shopping center.



John D. Murchison, left and Clint Murchison, Jr. sign papers to purchase the Mountain View Golf Course for a hotel development. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

On September 14, 1954, the day that President Dwight David Eisenhower dedicated the National Bureau of Standards Central Radio Propagation Laboratory in Boulder, the Murchisons completed the purchase of the Mountain View Golf Course. The \$250,000 deal was thought to be the largest cash transaction in the history of Boulder real estate, newspapers reported. A photograph of the brothers signing paperwork was published in the Boulder *Daily Camera*. Texas millionaires investing in

Boulder was big news, and all details of the Murchison's new development were covered in local newspapers. This was going to be the hotel that Boulder had wished for, and Boulder would also get more than one-hundred apartments and a shopping center.

The Murchison brothers were not alone in their belief that Boulder was a good investment opportunity. Their partner Gerald T. Hart represented the brothers in Colorado. Hart was a 1932 business graduate of the University of Colorado and was often credited with encouraging the Murchisons to invest in the state. Hart knew the time was right to invest in Boulder.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, several developments came together and resulted in rapid change in Boulder. *Esquire* magazine, that became Esquire-Coronet and later Neodata, chose Boulder for its new subscription offices in 1949. Rocky Flats, a government atomic plant in nearby Jefferson County opened in 1951. The Denver-Boulder Turnpike, completed in 1952, allowed businesses to look at Boulder as a new possibility. The National Bureau of Standards new Central Radio Propagation Laboratory was dedicated in 1954, and Beech Aircraft chose Boulder for its aerospace division in 1955. Housing developments, beginning with Martin Acres, were built to accommodate all of these new workers and their families. Boulder was booming.

Saving the Clubhouse



Ray Austin's home that served as a clubhouse on the Mountain View Golf Course, was saved and later moved to 2825 Marine St. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

In an early sustainability and preservation action, Ray Austin's brick house that was used as a clubhouse on the Mountain View Golf Course was moved to 2825 Marine Street. A smaller frame house on the property was scheduled to be moved to Hawthorn Avenue. The property was cleared in 1955 and shopping center construction began. Applications for retail space in the new center piled up.

No Hotel Without Liquor

Before the hotel construction could begin, however, the Murchisons had to work out requirements with city officials. Hashing out the details consumed many heated hours of Boulder City Council meetings. The property was outside the city limits, but the hotel needed city water and sewer. City Council wanted the hotel property to be annexed into the city to make that happen. Alcohol was the problem.

Boulder was dry and had been since an amendment to the City Charter in 1907. In the 1930s a provision was made for serving non-intoxicating beverages such as 3.2% alcohol beer within city limits. But wine and hard liquor were still prohibited. The Murchisons absolutely refused to develop a major hotel without a full bar.

With the city and the Murchison brothers in complete disagreement, the now named Harvest House Hotel appeared to be at a standstill. Behind the scenes, there were rumors of bribery. In late January 1958, the *Daily Camera* reported that the Murchison brothers denied offering a bribe to councilmen to guarantee their liquor license. "Any such insinuation is an absolute, dastardly lie," Murchison representative Gerald T. Hart stated. He continued, "There has been nothing under the table. There has been no pussyfooting. We have made it clear from the start that a liquor license is required to develop the kind of hotel which is needed in this community."

Council then approved a recommendation stating that the hotel "cannot be annexed for obvious reasons."

Citizen efforts to stop the hotel began in earnest. Dr. H. Herbert Howe, a National Bureau of Standards mathematician as well as a member of the Boulder Association on Alcohol Problems, and the Committee to Defeat the Liquor Referendum, was opposed to the Harvest House using city services. In his 1959 unsuccessful bid for city council, Howe stated in a *Daily Camera* article, "... although a City ordinance forbids water and sewer service outside the City without another ordinance permitting it, they

(City Council) winked when the Harvest House was connected six weeks illegally.” Howe gave it his all, but ultimately lost the battle.

The negotiations between the city and the Murchison project representatives continued. At a council meeting, Hart formally dropped the request for a contract providing city water, sewer, fire protection and services in return for the hotel paying city taxes. Instead, it was agreed that the hotel would get city water in exchange for the irrigation ditch (McCarty Ditch) rights that came with the land, the *Daily Camera* reported. The hotel remained outside city limits, so the Boulder County Commissioners granted a liquor license to the hotel and restaurant. Hart also promised to allow the hotel land to be annexed to the city in the event that the City Charter would be amended to allow the sale of liquor. After months of delay, the hotel and its accompanying apartment house project was given a green light on June 1, 1958. Art Bazata, an experienced hotel professional from Denver, was named general manager of the hotel.



*Art Bazata, manager of the Harvest House.
Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.*

Modern Architecture

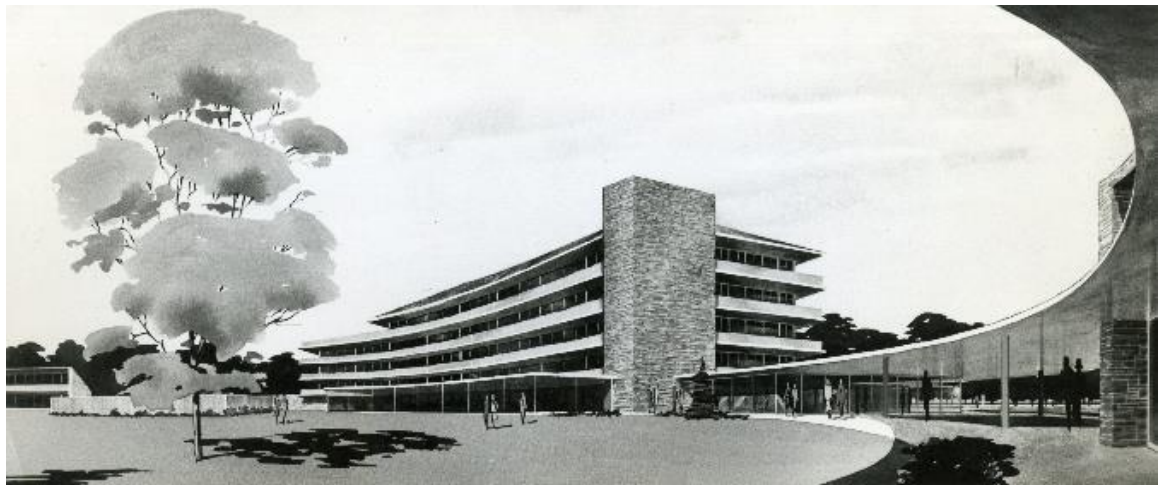
Ralph Delos Peterson, Jr. was selected as architect for the Harvest House Hotel in early 1958. He was well-known in Colorado. Educated at the University of Michigan, Harvard Graduate School of Design, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Peterson also had received a certificate of Naval Architecture. Designs to his credit included four buildings at the University of Colorado in keeping with the much-admired Tuscan Vernacular Revival style: Fleming Hall, 1954 (now Cheyenne-Arapaho); Libby Hall, 1955; Imig Music Building, 1955; and Willard Hall, 1955 (as part of Trautwein & Howard and Peterson & Linstedt architecture firms), the Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo, the Denver Federal Center renovation as well as more than 40 churches.

For the interior, the Denver firm Desks, Inc. was chosen to select the motif, design, décor and furnishings of the hotel. The company had recently decorated the

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First National Bank building in Denver and were renowned for their work. Interior design was planned to be contemporary with “an accent on natural western character,” and designers pledged to purchase as much material as possible from local merchants.

Plans for recreational facilities at the hotel included a year-round heated swimming pool, health club, putting greens (never realized) and tennis courts, all set in a beautifully romantic landscape of native Colorado trees and flowers.



*A stylized architectural drawing of the Harvest House Hotel.
Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.*

Peterson architects designed a bold five-story curved structure that embraced the natural beauty of Boulder Creek and allowed for a spectacular view of Boulder's mountain backdrop including the iconic sandstone slabs known as the Flatirons. Peterson used materials reminiscent of the buildings he designed at the University of Colorado.

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*Construction at the Harvest House in 1958.
Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.*

In September 1960, Ralph D. Peterson and Associates received the Architectural Award of Excellence from the American Institute of Steel Construction, one of just twelve buildings chosen for the year.

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Image courtesy Architectural Awards of Excellence, 1960. American Institute of Steel Construction.

The Murchison Brothers success in developing real estate was validated when they got their own cover of *TIME* magazine in 1961 with the banner “Making Money Work, A Texas Technique.” Certainly, their technique was transforming Boulder.

The Harvest House design fit with Boulder's trend in mid-century modernist architecture. From the 1940s to the 1970s, Boulder was home to a collection of creative young architects, including Charles Haertling, Tician Papachristou, and Hobart Wagener, who were commissioned to design innovative homes and public buildings, many of

which are now designated landmarks and Structures of Merit by the City of Boulder's historic preservation program. People assumed, incorrectly, that after the Harvest House reached 50 years in 2009, it too would be officially designated a local landmark.

Construction

In addition to the hotel, the mixed-use complex included a shopping center, the Harvest Manor apartments, and the Harvest Arms deluxe garden apartments that were constructed simultaneously. "The entire venture is a reflection of the Murchison Brothers' confidence in the dynamic future of Colorado and especially in the potential industrial, commercial and residential growth now developing in the Metropolitan Area Triangle of Boulder, Denver and Fort Collins," a press release stated.

There was a lot to accomplish. The shopping center construction was well underway by the mid-1950s. Work on the Harvest Manor apartments started on August 15, 1958.



*The finished Murchison apartments at the hotel complex.
Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.*

A few months later, a press release stated that work on the two-and-a-quarter million dollar hotel had begun as well. The Harvest House planned for all of the traditional hotel services with modern motel convenience. Since the Harvest House was a highway hotel serving automobile tourists, parking for 1,800 cars was included.

The opening day target was July 1, 1959. The deadline was daunting, as loads of summer tourists were expected that summer because Colorado was gearing up for the "Rush to the Rockies" - the 1859 Colorado gold rush centennial. The owners of the Harvest House wanted the hotel to be part of the celebration.

More than fifty local craftsmen worked hard on the hotel in the summer of 1958. In keeping with Murchison policies, they purchased all possible materials and services locally. For example, the hotel exterior was accented with sandstone from local quarries.

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Construction workers busy at the Harvest House in July of 1958. Piles of local sandstone are pictured in the foreground. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.



Aerial view of the Harvest House complex, 1959. Note the Vetsville Quonset huts between the hotel and the baseball diamond. Carnegie Library for Local History/Museum of Boulder Collection.

Part II

Openings

Though construction was not complete, the first guests of the ultra-modern Harvest House checked in on July 11, 1959. Workmen rushed to finish the plaster, painting, carpet and tile on the fifth floor Horizon Room in time for the Joint Civic clubs and Centennial kickoff luncheon.



Art Bazata, hotel manager, and E. W. Schergens, president of the National Editorial Association, place copies of newspapers in the wall near the front entrance of the hotel, June 29, 1959. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

The opening of the hotel was an exciting event. Finally, Boulder had a suitable space for important conferences. Finally, there was a hotel with a full bar. With all of the amenities at the Harvest House, it was like a resort, right in the city.

At the Horizon banquet room on the fifth floor, the mountain views were stunning, and more than five-hundred guests could be served at once. The Colorado Dining Room and the Terrace had a capacity of two-hundred and smaller options for food and drink were the Coffee Corner, the Rainbow Room, and the Bison Bar and Bison Lounge with "bison-sized" cocktails.

Openings of sections of the hotel came one at a time. The third floor of the hotel opened later in September with the fourth floor by the end of the month. The Century Club, on the first floor adjoining the main lobby, opened on September 18.

The Century Club was fancy with exquisite furnishings and the most important citizens of Boulder were invited to join. It operated as a men's stag club each day from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dinner and dancing was held six nights a week, Monday through Saturday. The Jimmy Ford Trio, a popular touring jazz band, played for the opening of the club.



*City of Boulder centennial celebration in the 5th floor meeting room of the hotel.
Carnegie Library for Local History/Museum of Boulder Collection.*

Before a formal public opening could be held, the Harvest House had already hit the ground running. The University of Colorado's football season had started, conferences were filling up the rooms meeting spaces and there was no time to plan for a celebration. The University of Washington football team took over the third floor in September. Next, the fourth floor was being rushed to completion for the Baylor University football team.

College football was a centerpiece from the beginning. The Big Eight (the athletic conference for the University of Colorado at the time) meeting was held at the new hotel. In November the Harvest House welcomed the University of Arizona football team, that was playing the Air Force Academy at Folsom Field.

Conferences were booked including the National Radio Advertising bureau with 120 attendees for September 23-26; while eighty members attended the United American Life Insurance conference October 1-4. Continuing into October were the American Red Cross and Junior Red Cross; the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and others as well as the University of Colorado classes of 1929 and 1934 celebrating at the hotel for homecoming. The phone was ringing steadily with inquiries for meeting and conventions.

Boulder had to wait until January 1960 for the formal hotel opening. The week prior to the opening ceremonies, the hotel ran a full-page ad in the *Daily Camera* that read, "Open House, Wednesday January 20, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. We extend a hearty invitation and a Western welcome to all our friends. Art Bazata, General Manager, Harvest House of Boulder, Colorado's Country Club Hotel." The Harvest House advertisements often referred to the hotel's country club atmosphere and other times ads were pitched to automobile tourists as the Harvest House Motor Hotel, for its convenience as a modern highway stop.



Carnations of yellow and tangerine, the harvest colors of the hotel, were given out to guests. Lula Luce, Miss Colorado Carnation, presents a flower at the formal opening in January of 1960. Art Bazata, general manager is on the left. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

“Ladies Day at the Harvest House” started the festivities with more than five-hundred Boulder women and a few men enjoying a fashion show luncheon. Guests were greeted in the lobby by hotel manager Art Bazata and catering manager William Brown, along with Miss Colorado Carnation, Lula Luce, who stood by a large display of tangerine and yellow carnations — the hotel’s harvest colors. Luce was handing out the famous Colorado flowers to guests. Carnation growing was big business in the state during those years and Boulder had several greenhouses in town devoted to their cultivation. Doris Fleischer, the executive secretary of the Colorado Flower Growers Association was present as well.

Employees from Neusteters, an upscale department store presented a showing of spring and cruise wear for Boulder’s most fashion-conscious women, ending with a

wedding party complete with the bride dressed in Chantilly lace, a bridal attendant wearing blue silk organza and a flower girl in organdy lace. The program continued with a session on hair styling challenges with a history of hairdressing. Hotel chef Vaughn Olmdahl and catering manager William Brown concluded with a chafing dish demonstration while Almedan Vinyards offered sherry for guests in the lounge of the Horizon room.

In the evening gentlemen joined the ladies for dinner and wine tasting. Boulder proper was still under prohibition, as it had been since 1907. But, technically, the hotel remained outside the city limits, so wine and cocktails at social events were a welcome treat for Boulder residents.

By 1960, Boulder had grown to almost 38,000 residents, nearly doubling its population in a decade. Old and new residents enjoyed the bustle of events and activities at the Harvest House. Even with population growth, Boulder was still a fairly conservative town — the majority voted for Republican candidates in all Presidential elections. The hotel reflected the town's mainstream character with both indoor and outdoor traditional entertainment that included fashion show luncheons, ballet on the lawn, music, and even an artist water show and diving exhibition at the swimming pool. Business dinners and national conferences continued throughout the decade as well.



A vintage postcard features parked cars and the mountain backdrop. Author's collection.

The hotel became a hub for one of Colorado's most sophisticated cultural offerings — the Central City Opera. The Harvest House sold tickets for performances of Aida and Lucia di Lammermoor during the summer of 1960. Catering manager William Brown announced a ten-dollar special that included a center loge seat and round trip bus transportation from the hotel to the Opera House with a box lunch prepared by the hotel kitchen staff.

New Manager Begins

In June 1960, the well-respected Art Bazata turned over general manager duties to Tony Padden.



Tony Padden is welcomed by Art Bazata as the new manager of the Harvest House Hotel in June 1960 at a luncheon of Boulder businessmen at the hotel. On the left is F.W. Reich, Chamber of Commerce manager and Paul Crouch, Chamber president, is on the right. Padden came from the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

Bazata had Denver business interests and too many demands on his time.

“Harvest House needs the full undivided attention of a highly qualified hotel manager living on the premises at all times,” Bazata said in a *Daily Camera* story. Padden arrived from the famous Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. Prior to Las Vegas, Padden worked as residential manager at the Beverly Wilshire hotel in Los Angeles. Boulder was getting a big time professional. “In Mr. Padden, Harvest House has succeeded in securing an eminently able and experienced hotel executive...,” Bazata said. Mr. Padden and his wife moved into a room at the hotel.

First Holiday Season

The first Harvest House winter holiday season was celebrated with decorations and special events. Since the Hotel Boulderado had fallen into disrepair, it had been

years since Boulder residents could participate in the kinds of Christmas events offered at a big hotel and they turned out in large numbers.

An afternoon of caroling by the University of Colorado madrigal singers took place around the large, decorated tree in the lobby. Men performers wore formal tuxedos with ruffled shirts and the women were dressed in Renaissance-style scarlet gowns. The local favorite Watts-Hardy Dairy provided refreshments.

Hotel manager Padden hosted a private Christmas cocktail party in the Century Room for important civic leaders. Gold and white decorations were used throughout, and the serving table featured elaborate ice carvings. The guest list included Colorado Governor and Mrs. Stephen McNichols, Daily Camera publisher A.A. Paddock, hotel architect Ralph Peterson, Jr., businessman Jack Rippberger, University of Colorado Law School Dean Edward King and his wife, Boulder's father of Big Science Dr. Walter Orr Roberts and his wife, Janet, as well as Chamber of Commerce Secretary-Manager Frances 'Fanny' Reich and others.

The public was invited to view the tree in the lobby on Christmas Day with complementary eggnog. After lots of residents and guests requested permission to take family holiday photographs by the spectacular tree, hotel management welcomed everyone to do so, provided that they brought their own cameras. Boulder residents were proud of the wonderful hotel traditions in the making.



Young girls join their mothers dressed up for a March fashion show luncheon at the Harvest House in 1961. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

Science Flourishes

In 1962, Hotel manager Padden was interviewed by a *Denver Post* reporter about the new hotel's success. Why, he was asked, was the Harvest House able to prosper in Boulder? Well, there were football crowds, restaurant diners, and tourists, of course, but according to Padden the hotel's top customers were the men and women of the space and atomic energy industries. The Harvest House had become the headquarters for the flow of scientists, executives and visitors at the National Bureau of Standards, the Atomic Energy Commission at Rocky Flats, National Center for Atmospheric Research, the Cryogenics Division of Beech Aircraft and the Ball Brothers Research Corporation. "On a typical day the register at the Harvest House might carry the names of a dean of science from a major university, a half dozen degree-holders from the National Science Foundation, an official of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, a chief of the foreign trade division, a member of the defense research

staff of the British Embassy and a half dozen Bell Telephone scientists," the *Post* story reported. Scientific meetings were frequent and included the Symposium on Microwave Theory and Techniques, the Conference of Electromagnetic Measurement, the Gaseous Electronic Conference and the Armed Forces Security Seminar.

At the time the *Post* article was published, the Harvest House was already booked for the following year with guests that included the American Society of Physical Anthropology and Archeology, the Rocky Mountain Electrical League and the Electronics Packaging Symposium. A list of prestigious guests at the Harvest House was printed on a regular basis in *Cervi's Rocky Mountain Journal* and other local business publications.

One week in May 1963 lists the following guests: Dr. C.L. Riggs, National Science Foundation; Dr. D.B. Tylor, National Science Foundation; Dr. G. Sprugel, National Science Foundation; Joseph Smiley, President, University of Colorado; C.J. Knorr, President, Remington Rand, Ltd. According to Padden, the scientific community was an integral part of the hotel's success.

Hometown Space Hero

The Space Age culminated in the celebration of a Boulder hometown hero. The Harvest House hosted the press conference for astronaut (Malcolm) Scott Carpenter. A native of Boulder, Carpenter made history as the fourth person in space in his Aurora 7 space capsule with NASA's Project Mercury. Boulder declared May 29, 1962 "Scott Carpenter Day" and held a parade in his honor. Banks in town were closed from 9 a.m. to noon in tribute to hometown Carpenter and to "enable employees to attend the

celebration at the University of Colorado Stadium and the cavalcade through downtown Boulder,” according to an advertisement placed in the *Daily Camera*. The parade, with the largest turnout of citizens in Boulder history, traveled down Pearl Street and then ended with speeches at Folsom Field on the University of Colorado campus. A televised national press conference followed at the hotel.



A banner outside the hotel reads, “Welcome Home Our National Hero M. Scott Carpenter.” May 29, 1962 was declared Scott Carpenter Day in Boulder after his historical space flight in the Aurora 7 capsule. A national press conference was held at the hotel following a downtown parade and speeches at Folsom Field. Carnegie Library for Local History/Museum of Boulder Collection.

Carpenter and his wife Rene arrived for the press conference in a motorcade surrounded by police.

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*Scott and Rene Carpenter ride in a convertible just past the entrance of the Harvest House.
Carnegie Library for Local History/Museum of Boulder Collection*

A large crowd hoping to get a glimpse of the astronaut stood at the hotel's entrance in front of a banner, "Welcome Home Our National Hero, M. Scott Carpenter."

After less than two years, hotel manager Tony Padden left to become manager of the Kenilworth Hotel in Bal Harbour, Florida. He turned the position over to Paul Huckins in May of 1963.



On May 20, 1963, Paul Huckins, left, was welcomed as the new manager by outgoing Tony Padden. Huckins came from the Mountain Shadows Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

Huckins, a personal friend of Padden, said in a *Daily Camera* story, "I will continue to make the Harvest House headquarters for both resort guests and high level conventions connected with education, government and the space industries." It was another seamless transition.

Hollywood Comes to Boulder

Excitement was in the air in the summer of 1965, when Hollywood came to the Harvest House for a remake of the film "Stagecoach."



The remake of the movie "Stagecoach" starring Bing Crosby, Ann-Margret, Stefanie Powers and others was filmed on the Caribou Ranch north of Nederland in 1965. Most of the actors and crew stayed at the Harvest House Hotel. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

Most of the cast of one-hundred and crew stayed at the hotel while they were filming at the Caribou Ranch near Nederland. The cast featured Bing Crosby, Ann-Margret, Alex Cord, Stefanie Powers, Red Buttons and Slim Pickens. Before dawn, makeup artists prepared the actors before they were driven up Boulder Canyon to the set.



Hair and makeup for actors began at 5:30 a.m. at the Harvest House Hotel. Actress Stefanie Powers applies mascara on the fourth floor of the hotel before the day's filming began. The cast left at 7:15 a.m. for the drive up Boulder Canyon to the set at Caribou Ranch, the Daily Camera reported. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

Turnpike Celebration

Boulder reached a transportation milestone when the Denver-Boulder Turnpike paid off its debt and became a free highway, thirteen years ahead of schedule.

A luncheon at the hotel on September 14, 1967 marked the occasion. Skeptics who claimed that the road would never pay for itself were proved wrong. The International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association stated that the Denver-Boulder Turnpike was the first toll road of its kind to become free of debt. Charles Brady of the Washington office of the American Automobile Association was among those to attend the luncheon. Brady spoke briefly at the luncheon and said that it was "a milestone in history," according to *Daily Camera* reports.

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Left, Bill McNichols. Far right, Boulder mayor Robert Knecht. Carnegie Library for Local History.



End of toll road celebration luncheon, Harvest House Hotel, September 14, 1967. Carnegie Library for Local History.

Officials and leaders who contributed to the legislation needed for the success of the turnpike were invited. State Highway Commission chairman, James F. Ellis, served as the special celebration committee chair and Boulder Chamber of Commerce manager Franny Reich also helped plan the event. Roderick L. Downing, a former University of Colorado engineering professor and considered to be the “father of the Denver-Boulder Turnpike” was honored with a plaque for his contribution.



The last toll on the Boulder-Denver Turnpike was paid on September 14, 1967, thirteen years ahead of schedule. Roderick L. Downing, left, a former University of Colorado engineering professor was recognized as the “father of the Denver-Boulder Turnpike,” by Guy A. Hollenbeck, president of the Chamber of Commerce. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

Others receiving plaques for their contributions at the luncheon were Frank L. Gill, state senator; William L. Paddock, former state representative of Boulder; Mark U. Watrous, former state highway engineer and Frank S. Henderson, former chairman of the Denver-Boulder toll road committee. The Chamber of Commerce presented

Laurence T. Paddock, editor of the *Daily Camera* and president of the Boulder Historical Society, with the Turnpike's groundbreaking shovel.

Part III

Boulder's Prohibition Ends

The Harvest House, still outside the city limits, was the best and closest place to have a cocktail, attend a wine tasting, or celebrate with champagne. The property had become a twenty-acre "island," completely surrounded by City of Boulder land, known by the planning department as "Enclave #7." The hotel's liquor license was still granted and renewed by the Boulder County Commissioners.

Ever since prohibition was enacted in the city in 1907, measures to repeal it had appeared on the Boulder ballot. After fourteen times, the fifteenth try was the charm. In 1967, a proposal to amend the City Charter to allow the sale of liquor passed, 9,701 votes to 3,965.

With the City Charter amended, the Harvest House was prepared to be annexed into the city, as the Murchisons promised back in the 1950s. Annexation was complete with the final reading of the ordinance on December 19, 1967. From then on, the hotel renewed its liquor license through the City of Boulder.

The 1970s

In 1970, Boulder was a growing city with more than 65,000 residents. After the National Bureau of Standards was established in Boulder, other scientific organizations

followed including Ball Brothers Research (now Ball Corporation), IBM, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Boulder was on its way to becoming a world center for space and atmospheric science. The population of Boulder more than tripled in twenty years.

The Harvest House went through big changes as well.

The 1970s began with a fancy new Sunday brunch which was an instant success. Brunch seating was scheduled in shifts to accommodate the large number of diners from all over the Front Range. "The brunch has brought fame to the Harvest House, with many driving up from Denver to partake," stated a 1973 story in the *Town & Country Review* newspaper.



Guests drove from Denver and beyond for the Sunday brunch spread that included champagne. This photo appeared in the Town & Country Review, Nov. 7, 1973. Carnegie Library for Local History/Town & Country Review Collection.

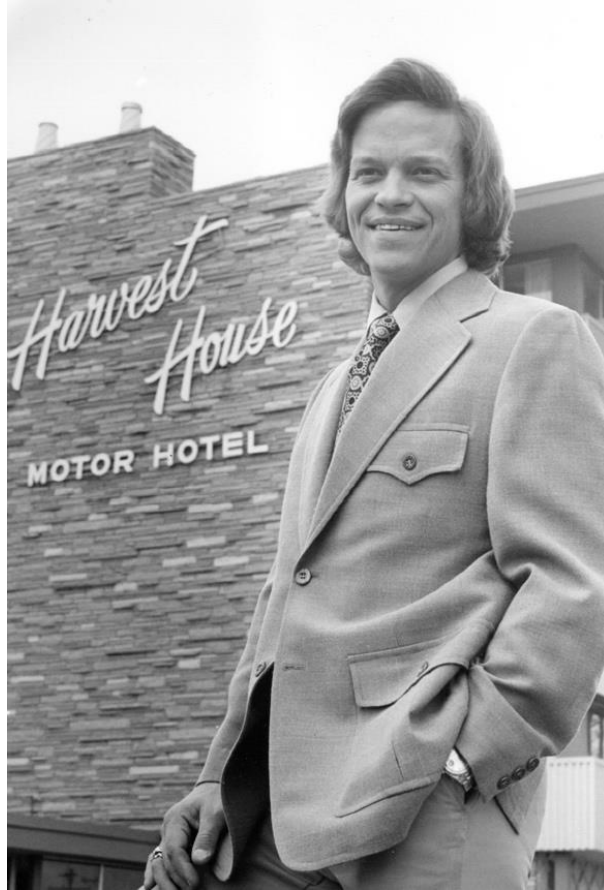
Catering manager Tom Johnson told a reporter that one man called from San Francisco to make reservations. The elaborate spread featured fifteen to twenty different salads every week, ribs, and all of the traditional breakfast foods. Diners consumed eighty to one-hundred pounds of crab legs each week. Two glasses of champagne were included with each meal, making the atmosphere festive and lively.

New Ownership

While the counterculture was making a pivotal and impact on Boulder in the late 1960s and early 1970s with an influx of hippies, rock and roll, and political demonstrations; activities at the Harvest House were relatively calm and traditional.

In 1974, the hotel was sold by Royal Gorge Corporation (controlled by the Murchison Brothers), to Van Schaak Corporation, a family-owned investment company for \$2,850,000. The purchase included the 140-room hotel and the Arapahoe Village Shopping Center that by then included a Safeway grocery store and Neusteters Department store among other retail tenants, as well as ten acres of undeveloped land. The hotel complex covered 29.1 acres, reports stated.

The sixteen-acre hotel portion was leased immediately to Tony Seibert, a University of Colorado mechanical engineering graduate who began his career as a Denver real estate developer.



*Anthony "Tony" Seibert, majority owner of the Harvest House Hotel, circa 1975.
Carnegie Library for Local History.*

The deal included an option to purchase. Seibert planned to remodel the fifteen-year-old hotel and return it "to the standard of elegance it has been noted for in the past," said Henry C. Van Schaak III.

Historic Preservation

The building boom in the 1970s caused distress for many residents who thought Boulder was changing too much. Boulder's historic one-hundred-year-old Central School at 1440 Walnut Street downtown was bulldozed in 1972 to make way for a parking lot. Citizens were outraged that part of the city's important architectural and social history

was demolished without any input from its citizens. They were truly paving paradise, many believed. Boulder resident Joyce Davies and others formed the nonprofit Historic Boulder, Inc. Their hopes were to prevent tragedies like Central School from happening again.

The National Historic Preservation Act passed in 1966, and that in turn created the National Register of Historic Places and corresponding State Preservation Offices. Women, like Davies, were at the forefront of this new preservation movement.



Demolition of Central School. On a portion of the roof which fell to the ground was the sign, "Historic Boulder Protests and Regrets the Destruction of this Historic Building." Carnegie Library for Local History/ Town & Country Review Collection.

Historic Boulder quickly went to work and became a significant organization in town. In 1974, members helped write the city's historic preservation ordinance and established the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. The ordinance created a formal process to "preserve and protect the historic, architectural, and environmental assets that contribute to Boulder's unique sense of place." The city began designating individual local landmarks and creating historic districts. At the same time, the Chautauqua Auditorium was threatened with demolition, but was saved with support from Historic Boulder and the community at large. The auditorium earned a listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and became a local landmark in 1977.



Chautauqua Auditorium. National Register of Historic Places website, www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com.

Both Historic Boulder, Inc. and the Landmarks Board recommended that the downtown Hotel Boulderado be designated a local landmark for its significance in

architectural and social history. The Boulderado was granted landmark status in 1977, as the effort began to restore the hotel to its previous grandeur.

Concert Success

Youth culture and rock and roll finally reached the Harvest House in the mid-1970s. In July 1975, a mellow daytime outdoor concert featuring bluegrass musician Earl Scruggs was a success. The following month, after a week of rain, a concert planned for the Pow Wow Rodeo at 30th and Pearl Streets, was moved to the Harvest House grounds due to extremely muddy conditions. The lawn in the back of the hotel toward Boulder Creek made a natural amphitheater. On Sunday August 17, an estimated 2,500 people heard a four-hour concert by a lineup that included the Chris Hillman Band, Tracy Nelson and Mother Earth, and ended with country music legend Waylon Jennings. Jennings delivered three encores to the appreciative crowd.



In August 1975, the Waylon Jennings concert scheduled for the Pow Wow grounds was moved to the outdoor gardens of the Harvest House, due to muddy conditions. More than 2,500 fans of all ages attended the show that also featured the Chris Hillman Band, and Tracy Nelson and Mother Earth. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

Daily Camera journalist Barbralu Fried described the crowd, “from nursing infants to white-haired grandmothers, sat on blankets or on the grass in the hotel’s backyard. Young couples in linen slacks with flowered shirts – and other couples in jean cut-offs and long shapeless dresses – carried cups of beer and gin-and-tonics from the bar back to their spot on the grass. The balconies off the rooms in the west wing swarmed with people in long skirts and fancy pants.” It was a memorable event for the audience. Manager Tony Seibert was thrilled.



A band plays at the outdoor area of the Harvest House. Carnegie Library for Local History.

But hotel guests complained about the noise from the concert, that began at 6 p.m. and went well into the late evening. The noise was a problem Seibert didn't want repeated. Guests hadn't complained after the Scruggs show, so Seibert decided right then that future concerts would be held only during the day.

Before the Jennings concert, Seibert had formed a company with Eric Singer called Group Two Productions. The business plan included concert promotion, recording and group management along with publicity and graphics. Singer, who worked on the hotel's remodel, said that the idea was "to expand the horizons of the hotel" to new clients of all ages and incomes. More concerts were scheduled for September and the following summer the hotel was planning to present a series of low-cost jazz, blues, rock, and country performances as well as theater.

Expanding Horizons

Seibert launched live theater on the fifth floor of the hotel. One critic described the ambiance as comfortably elegant, with a prime rib dinner included in the ticket price. Although the theater didn't last long, one show became part of Boulder's LGBTQ history. In January 1976 the theater staged "The Boys in the Band," a groundbreaking portrayal of gay life. The play, written by Mart Crowley, made its debut in New York City, Off-Broadway, in 1968. It was a bold choice for the Harvest House Dinner Theatre, considering the political events that had taken place during the previous two years in Boulder.



The Harvest House Dinner Theatre, located on the 5th floor of the hotel, was described as comfortably elegant by the local critic. Above, "The Boys in the Band" was viewed as a controversial choice for its portrayal of gay life. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

In 1974, Penfield Tate II, the city's first Black mayor and councilman Tim Fuller faced a recall election due to their approval of LGBTQ rights in housing and employment. Hate mail full of racist and homophobic vitriol poured in from the

community. Tate survived the recall, but his fellow councilman did not. The following year Boulder's County Clerk Clela Rorex issued six same-sex marriage licenses before being shut down by the State Attorney General. Many Boulder residents were enraged at her actions and wrote letters condemning the LGBTQ community. Political leaders in Boulder shied away from LGBTQ issues for years. Many LGBTQ groups went back underground, fearing for their safety.

However, not everyone in town was anti-gay. The Harvest House embraced the play and the big turnout for "The Boys in The Band" was a strong show of support for the LGBTQ community. The play was held over for an additional performance before leaving on tour. The follow up production of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," was not a hit and the Harvest House Dinner Theatre fizzled out.

In November, entertainment continued on the fifth-floor with the Freddi-Henchi Band, Boulder's favorite high energy party group that had a big local following. The band chose Boulder as its home base, settling in during a time when Boulder was a mecca for rock and roll musicians and the Caribou Ranch Recording Studio near Nederland was in its heyday.



Freddi-Henchi Band publicity photo, circa 1975. Carnegie Library for Local History.

“Boulder accepted us quicker than any other city,” Gowdy said in a 1990s *Daily Camera* interview. As Gowdy remembered recently, some other Colorado towns didn’t know what to make of the flashy funk band with a cast of Black, Native American, Mexican-American and Asian-American members. But Boulder embraced them as a hometown band.

The band quickly became a Boulder institution, playing to packed houses. Fans were treated to a performance that featured choreographed as well as impromptu moves and spins, and even the occasional back flip by percussionist Tony Bunch. The

show was visually enhanced by the members' fashion-forward sequined jumpsuits, bell bottoms, and platform shoes. Freddi-Henchi drew their fans to the Harvest House.

Throughout the years, the hotel was always a friend to local causes. In the summer of 1976, a Mexican Fiesta benefit for muscular dystrophy included a six-piece mariachi band, folk dancers, Mexican food and drink. Sponsored by the hotel, Señor Miguel's Restaurant and others, the benefit was hailed as a tremendous success.



*A group including Harvest House General Manager Russ Stark hold a sign for the Mexican Fiesta benefit for Muscular Dystrophy on July 17, 1976.
Carnegie Library for Local History/Town & Country Review Collection.*

Renovation and Hilton Affiliation

Seibert now held more than ninety percent of the Harvest House Associates stock and he was also a major shareholder in the Van Schaack real estate company. In April 1976, Seibert announced that his \$250,000 renovation was nearly complete. The

hotel became affiliated with Hilton Hotels. The dining room and lounge areas were rebuilt and redecorated. An open house for the first phase was held May 1, featuring cokes and beers for a nickel on the hotel's lawn and outdoor area.



Grounds of the Hilton Harvest House looking west in August 1977, with the new beer garden in the center. At the left are two sand volleyball courts, partially finished, and eight tennis courts are under construction in the left background. West of the swimming pool, additional parking and two more sand volleyball courts are also under construction. Millennium Harvest House Hotel.

The second phase of the renovation, Seibert said, was a tennis club, volleyball courts, outdoor dining facilities, exercise rooms and the expansion from 140 to 250 rooms. Extensive landscaping was also part of the plan. Seibert said that the hotel's new beer garden and disco lounge would be completed in the spring of 1977.

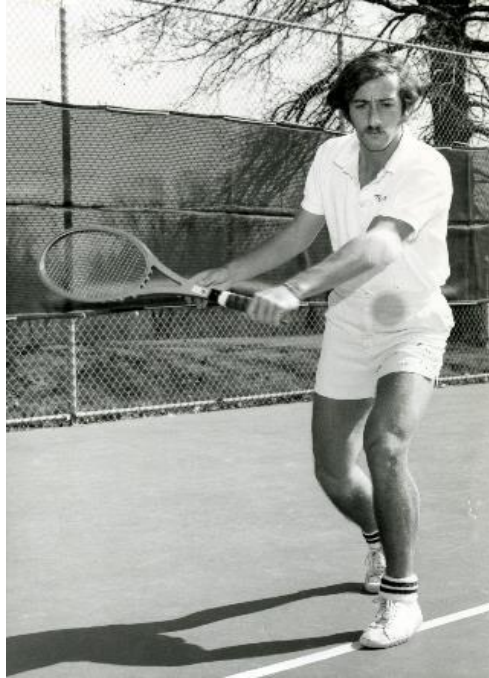
Tennis and the Bubble

In 1977, Seibert unveiled his plans for the Harvest House Sporting Association, a full-service athletic and recreation club that would cost an estimated \$1.3 million. Tennis courts, handball-racquetball courts, steam, massage, and tanning rooms, saunas and Jacuzzis, lockers, and two tennis pros were included in the project. The hotel already owned the space to expand on, Seibert explained in a *Daily Camera* story. “We want to become the Broadmoor of Boulder,” he said.

D. Lou Smario was named vice president and general manager of the proposed Sporting Association. Smario was a longtime teacher and administrator in the Boulder Valley School District with a Ph.D. in education —emphasis on physical education — from the University of Northern Colorado, and he brought professional caliber experience to the Harvest House.

The promise of a country club hotel finally became a reality when tennis the program started in the late 1970s. Boulder had become well-known for its numerous running and cycling athletes, but a large competitive tennis community was also active and needed more facilities.

Former Boulder High tennis star Theo Mandel was hired as the first full-time tennis pro.



*Theo Mandel was named as the first tennis pro at the Hilton Harvest House in the spring of 1977. Mandel was ranked first in the state in mixed doubles, and he won the Boulder City tournament, Boulder Valley Racquet Club tournament, Vail Invitational and the Colorado State Open.
Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.*

Membership grew quickly. Just a year later the club added indoor tennis court space for winter play. A 31,000-square-foot tennis dome, the largest in the state, was purchased for \$170,000. The bubble went up in March of 1979, but was shut down immediately. The Boulder Planning and Zoning department ordered the dome removed due to potential flooding hazards. Eventually, the hotel and the city negotiated an agreement whereby the tennis bubble could be up for the winter, but it had to be taken down during the high flood season, from May to October.



Hundreds of members of the Harvest House Sporting Association played tennis and attended tennis workshops, clinics, and camps in the bubble. The 31,000-square-foot tennis dome, constructed in 1979, had to be taken down from May to October due to concerns over potential flood hazards. Carnegie Library for Local History/Daily Camera Collection.

Setting up and taking down the bubble was an arduous task, so the club called for help each year. In 1980 members of the Delta Upsilon fraternity volunteered and the bubble was up and running in just two days.

In 1982 University of Colorado tennis coach Steve Zaslow approached the Harvest House about using the bubble for practice time during the winter. Their former space, Boulder Valley Racquet Club, one of the few indoor court spaces in town, had closed due to a lawsuit. Zaslow and the CU teams began practicing in the Harvest House bubble in the early mornings from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. After the men's tennis program was cut, the University of Colorado women's team continued to hold practices in the bubble.

Duke Paluch, two-time college All-American tennis player came on as director of tennis in 1987 and was the head pro at the hotel for over 20 years. Harvest House

Tennis held two major tournaments every year: the Mountain Ocean Junior Open tournament with approximately 250 youth players, and the Boulder Open, with five-hundred adults.

A 1991 *Daily Camera* story stated that the Harvest House Sporting Association brought in revenues of \$600,000 per year. The tennis facilities filled a huge void in Boulder. The 526-member association was not a money maker for the hotel, but its revenues supported the facilities, programs and two full-time tennis pros. The hotel was honored with the E. L. Griffey Award from the Colorado Tennis Association in 1991.

The program drew top players for the teaching staff. Harvest House assistant tennis pro Kathleen Winegardner won five Boulder tournament titles in the 1990s, and was inducted into the Colorado Tennis Hall of Fame in 2001. Kathleen was a University of Colorado graduate and Big Eight champion as well as a two-time Missouri State high school champion. She and her husband, former University of Colorado tennis coach Jon Winegardner, both served as assistant tennis pros, under longtime tennis director Duke Paluch.

Former University of Colorado tennis coach and longtime club member Steve Zaslow said the Harvest House developed some of the best tennis players in Boulder. They had a top-notch staff. Courts were booked forty days in advance. And best of all, the setting, by Boulder Creek with a view of the Flatirons, was unmatched. On any given sunny day, walkers, joggers, and bicycles cruise by on the Creek Path. "In the summer with the river running by and trees and just Boulder – it's a beautiful place," Zaslow said.

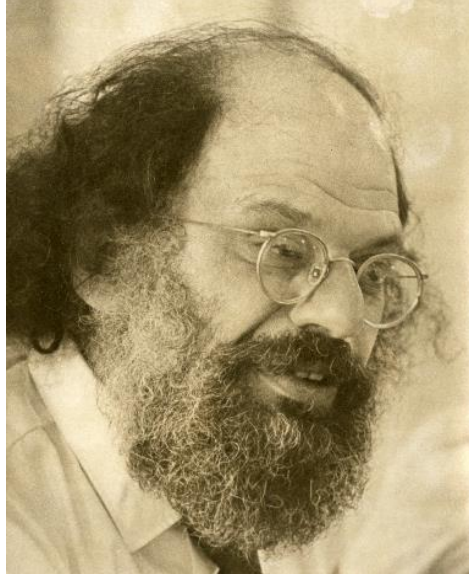
The Harvest House Sporting Association also sponsored a youth swim team, the Barracudas. Although the racquetball and handball courts in the original plans never materialized, the club had competitive volleyball leagues and even a fitness trail with stations for calisthenics. Playing Frisbee on the lawn was popular, too. The athletic center offered tai chi and yoga as well as bicycle rentals for riding on the Boulder Creek Path.

The Harvest House grew into a recreation paradise.

Counterculture

Gradually, the counterculture movement that the rest of Boulder had been experiencing since the late 1960s made its way into the Harvest House. A festival at the hotel was presented by Boulder Music, a group representing Boulder's recording studios, radio stations and musicians. The three-night festival, April 7, 8 and 9, 1977, from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., featured local bands at the Harvest House fifth-floor penthouse. The concert was intended to raise money for the enhancement of Boulder music with a lineup that included some of Boulder's most popular rock and roll groups - Zephyr, featuring Candy and David Givens; Mark McMillan, a one-time member of The Legendary 4-Nikators; Michael Woody and Friends; and Vanishing Band.

Right after the rock and roll festival, beat poets made their mark at the Harvest House. On April 10, 1977, the hotel hosted a poetry reading and reception —a fundraiser for the Naropa Institute (now Naropa University).



In April 1977, poets Allen Ginsberg and Anne Waldman gave readings at the Harvest House to raise funds for Naropa Institute. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

The fifth-floor event featured Allen Ginsberg, Anne Waldman, Michael Brownstein and Dick Gallup. The last half of the evening was recorded and is preserved through the Naropa University digital audio poetry archive.

KGNU Roots

That spring, alternative radio station KGNU announced that it would begin broadcasting from the fifth floor of the hotel in the fall of 1977. As it turned out, KGNU didn't meet their scheduled deadline. Instead, KGNU began live broadcasting on May 22, 1978, from a Harvest House-owned bungalow across Boulder Creek, with Glen Gerberg serving as the station's first manager.



Glen Gerberg, first station manager at KGNU. Sue Ann Todhunter Collection.

Hotel owner Tony Seibert, always a friend to local causes, provided space, an in-kind donation \$15,000 a year, to get the station started. Seibert told *Daily Camera* reporter Linda Cornett that the radio station fit in with the hotel's new focus on being part of the Boulder community.



KGNU DJ John "Sal" Salamone, 1979. The station got its start in the fifth bungalow across the creek from the Harvest House Hotel. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

In exchange for the space, the radio station agreed to cover tennis tournaments and concerts live from the hotel property. Coverage of those events never happened, according to David McIntosh, unofficial historian of the radio station. But McIntosh, a longtime station volunteer and board member from 1977-1981, remembers that the station always made a point to announce that it was broadcasting from the Harvest House.



*An interview on the patio outside the KGNU radio station bungalow in 1979.
Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.*

Many of the longtime staples of KGNU's alternative programming began at the Harvest House radio station. Blues Legacy, hosted by blues journalist Cary Wolfson, Reggae Bloodlines, and the Morning Sound Alternative, all got their start in some form at the Harvest House bungalow. Many local bands, including Boulder favorites Rare Silk and Hot Rize, played live at the Harvest House location, getting out of bed before the 7:00-7:15 a.m. time slot to do so, McIntosh remembered. Auctions and fundraisers for the station were held in the hotel's main ballroom during those years. Valentine's Day dances sponsored by KGNU were held at the hotel as well. Jack Pommer, former State legislator from Longmont, got his first on-the-air news experience at the Harvest House KGNU, McIntosh said.

In March 1981, the station faced an insurmountable debt of \$20,000. The board voted to close the station, as it seemed to be their only option. The radio station weathered the hard times and later relocated to 2049 Broadway. KGNU thrived and became a mainstay of Boulder media, founded by the generosity of the Harvest House Hotel.

Friday Afternoon Club

In the summer of 1977, the hotel began a regular outdoor gathering held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Anthony's Gardens, the patio area created in the recent renovation and named for manager Tony (Anthony) Seibert. The organizers brought in the Freddi-Henchi Band, who became regulars for the 'Friday Afternoon Club' (FAC) party, singer Freddi Gowdy remembered. By the following summer the FAC event was the talk of the town and beyond. The *Daily Camera* devoted several pages of coverage with photos of the FAC in September 1978. Mike Berlin, Harvest House promotions director explained in the *Daily Camera* story that the Friday scene started to get really huge in July 1977, filled with young adults who had come of age during the 1960s counterculture movement. This group grew up on rock and roll, and they loved a party. Word of the mingling event spread and the crowd grew so quickly that it was attracting 1,500 - 2,500 singles each week. The hotel's management boasted fifteen pouring stations in the beer garden area, making the FAC the largest pouring outlet in the state, according to Berlin. Live music played while a mix of young professionals and University of Colorado students socialized. Activities spilled out to the lawn with Frisbee and volleyball during the late afternoon.

The casual outdoor happy hour was designed to be less of a meat market than a typical singles bar. Nevertheless, the party garnered a reputation for available singles looking each other over and rating one another from one to ten.



The 1978 caption to this photo in the Daily Camera read, "On fair weather Friday afternoons, young Boulder flocks by the hundreds to the Harvest House, where drinks are cheap and people are rated from 1-10. The outdoor section takes on the air of a country hangout or lawn party, rather than a typical 'meat market' disco." Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

The FAC was the place to be. KGNU station manager Glen Gerberg said, "We all go there because of that party atmosphere that happens on Friday afternoons."

By Thursday, everyone was already talking about going to the Harvest House Friday Afternoon Club, recalled Boulder attorney Harold Fielden. Besides, it was

impossible to make plans to do anything else during that time, because everyone was going to the Harvest House. Fielden, also the drummer and founder of the band The Legendary 4-Nikators, says he even went to the Harvest House when his band wasn't playing there. Traffic on Highway 36 into Boulder's 28th Street was backed up every Friday afternoon, with people coming in droves to the Harvest House. Fielden remembered that drivers often got frustrated and just pulled over and left their cars illegally parked on 28th Street and walked the rest of the way to the FAC.

Complaints came nonstop to the hotel regarding noise, as well as attendees urinating on neighbors' lawns. "There were only so many bathrooms," Fielden recalls. Nearby residents had a lot to be upset about.

But word traveled fast among young people about the FAC. Former newspaper editor Blair Hamill was a Colorado State University student in the late 1970s, and early 1980s. Hamill and his friends heard about the legendary FAC and would travel more than an hour down to Boulder to join in the singles scene. Hamill's wife was a student at Fort Lewis College in Durango (more than six hours from Boulder) at the time and all of her friends knew about the FAC as well. People were traveling from all over the state to be at the FAC. There was definitely a lot of drinking going on, but also free food - a big part of the draw for Hamill and his friends. According to Hamill, people snuck down to the banks of Boulder Creek to smoke marijuana. It was illegal in those days. The seasonal FAC party raged on through the end of the 1970s.

Where the Hip Meet to Trip

The FAC season started off in May 1980 with large crowds and with the crowds came angry neighbors. Retailers in the Arapahoe Village Shopping Center called it "Friday's Automotive Congestion," the *Daily Camera* stated. Store owners complained that their clients wouldn't come to the shops on Fridays because all of the parking was taken up by Harvest House revelers. Safeway manager Dean Howell said that there was absolutely no parking at the grocery store from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays. The situation was out of control. Safeway hired security guards to patrol parking in the area.

Hotel General Manager Russ Stark tried working with neighboring business owners to solve the problem. "If we can find cooperative people with any constructive suggestions, we'd be glad to talk about it. I'm open to suggestions," Stark told the *Daily Camera*.

The party didn't stop. Word of the wildly popular event found its way to the national media. The July 28, 1980 issue of *Newsweek* magazine hit the stands about a week prior to its printed publication date (a common magazine practice). A feature inside about Boulder, Colorado titled, "Where the Hip Meet to Trip," caused an uproar in town. *Newsweek* reporters described Boulder as an extremely liberal, permissive city with a hedonistic counterculture, a nude beach, and former hippie radicals running the city government. A 'soft on drugs' law enforcement permitted the party atmosphere, reporters wrote.

LIFE/STYLE



Where the Hip Meet to Trip

The jail is so pleasantly progressive that the town wins all but has to be hosted, the better to enjoy the volleyball clinic and savor the gourmet chow. The local moguls jog, hike or bike to work and make millions from health-food factories. And most of the city establishment—from councilmen to police force—is dominated by former radicals who decided they would rather run things than rebel. “The only rules here are no rules,” says longtime resident Rob Padin, 42, a cartoonist who also does val-unteer drop counseling for the district attorney’s office. “The only people in town who aren’t comfortable are straight people who need boundaries.”

Responsibilities: Hey, man, like welcome to laid-back city, otherwise known as Boulder, Colo. The scenic Rocky Mountain community of 85,000—home of the University of Colorado—is one place where ‘60s dropouts have successfully dropped back in. While straighter citizens still pre- dominate, the former hippies and student activists have taken over most of the sys- tem, and now Boulder boasts some of the toughest environmental statutes and loose- est enforcement of drug laws in the United States. Like the campus towns of Cam- bridge, Mass., and Berkeley, Calif. before it, Boulder is fast becoming the counter- culture capital—’80s style. “Paris of me are still radical, but I work and meet my responsibilities,” says newcomer Tom Striffler, 28, a computer salesman. “Here I can smoke dope everywhere, and live a mellow uptown life.”

Boulder has not always been so hospitable to the hip. During most of the ‘60s,



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PHOTOGRAPH BY "DANGER MAN" DISTILLED & BOTTLED IN LONDON. 20% ALC/VOL. (40% ALC) 100% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS. IMPORTED BY SOMERSET IMPORTERS LTD., NY

TRANSITION

MARRIED: Disco Queen Donna Summer, 31, and Bruce Sudano, 31, her sometime songwriting partner (“Bad Girls”), in an evangelical ceremony, in Los Angeles, July 16. It is the second marriage for Summer, who is expecting her second child, and the first for Sudano.

ELECTED: The Rev. Marjorie S. Matthews, 64, as the first woman bishop in a major religious denomination, by delegates to a United Methodist Church conference after 29 ballots, in Dayton, Ohio, July 17. Matthews has been a district superintendent for the church in Traverse City, Mich.

INDICTED: U.S. Rep. Richard Kelly, 55, a Florida Republican, for taking a \$25,000 bribe in exchange for legisla- tive favors in the FBI’s AIRCAM investigation, in Washington, July 15. Kelly, the sixth congressman to be indicted for accepting cash from undercover agents, admits taking the money but he contends that he was conducting his own inquiry into what he believed was an organized-crime operation.

PLEADING NO GUILTY: Charles Dederick, 67, founder of the controversial cult Synanon, and two members of his security force, to charges that they conspired to murder attorney Paul Marantz by placing rattlesnake in his mailbox, in Los Angeles, July 15. Dederick, who is ailing, will give up leadership of the drug and alcohol re- habilitation center in return for probation. Lance Keitt, 22, and Joseph Mantec, 30, face a maximum two-year sentence.

DIED: Sir Seretse Khama, 59, President of Botswana since its independence from Britain in 1966, of cancer, in the capital city of Gaborone, July 13. Heir to the chief- tainship of the powerful Batswana tribe, he married a white and, because of the controversy, was exiled by the British for six years. He returned in 1956 and came to power in the country’s first general elec- tion. A pro-Western leader, Sir Seretse had a deep commitment to parliamentary de- mocracy and a free-enterprise economy. He leaves a stable government that does not arm its police, is relatively free of official corruption and holds no political prisoners.

Eddie Jackson, 64, Jimmy Durante’s song- and-dance partner for 55 years, following a stroke, in Sherman Oaks, Calif., July 16. He strutted and sang with the successful vaudeville team of (Lou) Clayton, Jackson and Durante. When they disbanded, Durante featured Jackson on TV specials.

Newsweek, July 28, 1980. Under the subheading “Hedonists” the story described the Harvest House FAC.

The Harvest House FAC was a juicy part of the piece. “Every Friday the trendies gather to play Boulder-style T.G.I.F. [Thank God It’s Friday.] Offices close at 3 p.m. so folks can run home, squeeze into tank tops and still make the 4 p.m. starting time in the garden of the Harvest House Hotel,” Newsweek reported.

A two-sentence quote in the story, attributed to 26-year-old Boulder real estate agent Geoffrey Keys, described the scene and was alarming to some readers. Newsweek claimed that Keys told them, “Male goes to Harvest House for female in Danskin top, short shorts and impenetrable sun glasses. Goes home and shoves 2.5 grams of coke up her nose and pops as many Flight 714 Quaaludes as necessary for an evening of sexual bliss.”

Boulder Mayor Ruth Correll and City Manager Robert Westdyke fired off a letter to *Newsweek* stating that the “factual inaccuracies and misleading innuendoes in your report on Boulder, Colorado (July 28) are shocking and disappointing to find in a national news publication which millions of Americans accept on faith as being fair and comprehensive in its coverage.” *Newsweek* published a portion of the Correll/Westdyke letter in a later issue.

Newsstands in Boulder sold out of the *Newsweek* issue. Everyone was talking and writing about the story that became known as “The Article.” Some thought *Newsweek* had reported the truth, and others were outraged at how much its writers got wrong.

The *Daily Camera* reprinted the article, and letters to the editor and phone calls to the newsroom followed. Boulder and Denver columnists and reporters wrote about the story. Many Boulder residents chuckled at the errors in the story including that while the reporter stated that Coot Lake was by a school parking lot, the nude bathing spot was far from any public school.

In October, Geoffrey Keys sued both the *Daily Camera* and *Newsweek* for four million dollars, demanding two million from each publication, claiming that he had been libeled. Keys said he never made the statement that *Newsweek* quoted him as saying. Keys was fired from his real estate job after the story was published.

Though the reported debauchery took place at the Harvest House, the hotel managed to stay out of any legal actions in the wake of “The Article.”

The Rise and Fall of Boulder's Legendary Harvest House Hotel



The Legendary 4-Nikators members, David Givens, Eddie Turner and Candy Givens at the microphone, play at a Harvest House FAC concert in October 1980. Kathryn Keller Collection.



Mick Manresa of The Legendary 4-Nikators in October 1980. The plastic beer cup reads "Anthony's Gardens." Kathryn Keller Collection.

The good news for the fall of 1980 was that the FAC parking situation had calmed down a bit. A "vigorous campaign of warning signs and private security guards," had merchants relieved that the parking problems had decreased slightly, said the *Daily Camera*.

The FAC parties continued. Renowned for outrageous behavior, The Legendary 4-Nicators, an offshoot of the group Flash Cadillac, performed regularly at the FAC beginning in 1979. The band drew thousands of fans each time it played. Bands were hired by hotel general manager Russ Stark, who often joined in with the fun. One time a ramp was built so that Stark could “jump the stage” on his motorcycle.

Fielden remembered that the band was well-paid for the show, and that its members also got a percentage of drink sales at the FAC as well as drink tickets to use at the bar. The Legendary 4-Nicators had worked themselves up to a total of 200 drink tickets. Band members drank a lot, for sure, but they also handed tickets out to friends. Fielden says the Harvest House did very good business in renting rooms after the FAC, as well. Many romances blossomed at the event, with marriages and children owing their beginnings to the FAC.

The FAC wasn't the only time the Harvest House was wild with partying – partying was part of the era. Before and after football home games, the Harvest House was always crazy. Fielden remembered when group of his friends, all recent University of Colorado graduates, rented two hotel rooms for the homecoming game. They arrived from out-of-state with suitcases filled with containers of shaving cream. After settling into their rooms, they cleared out all of the furniture from one of the rooms to create a substantial party area. Then they stripped down, sprayed their bodies with shaving cream, and someone dubbed them “the snowmen.”



The snowmen, who wish to remain anonymous, party at the Harvest House.

The hotel rooms were not in good shape after a visit from the snowmen. The group returned to the hotel in subsequent years, but they had to register under different names each time.

A year after "The Article," the FAC was still going strong. The *Daily Camera* reported that approximately 3,000 people were still flocking to the FAC each week. The hotel employed fifteen bartenders, fifteen cocktail waitresses, eight young men to stock beer and ice and twenty bouncers. Many hopefuls under the legal drinking age of 21 attempted to get into the party. Bouncers were paid three dollars for each fake identification that they confiscated.

In court, a federal judge ordered Geoffrey Keys to answer questions under oath about his own and his friends' drug use related to the FAC. Keys was reluctant to testify

about his friends, the *Daily Camera* reported. At the end of October 1981, he dropped the lawsuit against *Newsweek* and the *Daily Camera*, and many breathed a sigh of relief.

Even so, parking continued to cause frustration. In May 1982, a Harvest House parking lot attendant was struck by the car of an enraged driver. The attendant had informed the driver that there was no more room in the parking lot that Friday evening. The driver pulled a gun but then drove off.


Part IV

AIRCOA Ownership


In June 1982, across town, the Hotel Boulderado along with Historic Boulder, Inc. collaborated on tours of the hotel that had been meticulously restored to its original Victorian grandeur. The Boulderado was the shining star of downtown Boulder, just a block away from the new pedestrian Pearl Street Mall that had become a tremendous success for the city.

The same month the Hilton Harvest House announced that it had been purchased by the Denver-based Associated Inns and Restaurants Company of America (AIRCOA).


The Rise and Fall of Boulder's Legendary Harvest House Hotel




There's a place in Boulder, Colorado, right at the base of the Flatiron Mountains. And there's a reason people call it the first resort for business or pleasure.



BOULDER, COLORADO

The Hilton Harvest House 

The Hilton Harvest House
1345 Twenty-Eighth Street
Boulder, Colorado 80302
(303) 443-3850




The Hilton Family Plan
There is no charge for children, regardless of age, when they occupy the same room as their parents.

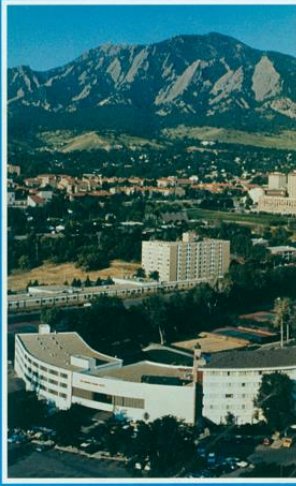
FOR IMMEDIATE RESERVATIONS AT GUARANTEED RATES, CALL YOUR LOCAL HILTON RESERVATION SERVICE OFFICE. (CONSULT YOUR WHITE PAGES OR SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT WHEN VISITING A HILTON. ONGOING RESERVATIONS ARE EASILY MADE AT THE FRONT DESK.

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BOULDER, COLORADO

The HILTON HARVEST HOUSE 



Simply Luxurious

Discover the place for travelers and business people. The Hilton Harvest House resort hotel. You'll find luxurious accommodations and all the amenities to make your stay a special one. There's a gourmet restaurant offering delectable continental cuisine. Enjoy a refreshing cocktail in our lush garden courtyard. Discover our specialty wine bar. Our elegant lounge featuring live entertainment. Linger over lunch or a late night snack in our beautiful cafe-restaurant. We also have superb meeting space. And a special Corporate VIP Club with a private clubroom for our frequent business friends and guests.










Exceptionally Accommodating

When it comes to business, our meeting rooms, conference rooms and breakout rooms are absolutely first class. In fact, we have over 12,000 square feet of flexible meeting space. Professional facilities to accommodate groups of 7 to 700. Twenty-one gracious hospitality suites and conference rooms. Superb banquet and luncheon menus. The amenities to make your meetings relaxed and productive. An expert staff that will impress you with their proficiency and efficiency. So, when you're planning a meeting, banquet or seminar, call on the Hilton Harvest House. You'll find we're particularly accommodating.





Uncommonly Relaxing

Walk along the winding stream. Swim our two heated pools. Relax in our extra-large water spa. We have 15 regulation tennis courts for you to make game, set and match. Five are enclosed and heated for winter play. Jog our half-mile Swedish running track and mini-par course. There's volleyball and basketball, too. Or simply bask in the Boulder sun. The Hilton Harvest House resort hotel. 275 rooms located on 16 beautifully landscaped acres. Only half an hour from Denver. It's the first resort for vacationers, business meetings or extra-special getaways.






*Hilton Harvest House brochure.
Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.*

AIRCOA also operated Denver's esteemed Brown Palace Hotel. After the AIRCOA purchase, the newest Harvest House Hotel general manager, John Wagner (who had replaced Russ Stark, and hailed from the Holiday Inn in the wine country in California), announced that there would be changes to the FAC. The *Colorado Daily* reported on September 17, 1982, that the new managers were re-evaluating the Friday afternoon tradition. Wagner told the *Daily* that there would be a toning down of the event. "We want to emphasize that we are a first-class hotel first. A meat market is not the kind of image that will do that." In a July 25, 1982 *Daily Camera* story, Wagner told the reporter that the management liked the tradition, but they didn't like dealing with large crowds of intoxicated people. He planned more security and more employees in uniform, "cutting out riff-raff and freeloaders as much as possible." Wagner continued, "We're not saying we're going to cut it out, but we're not saying we're going to continue it either." "If we find that it works against the group business, we'll probably have to eliminate it. We're going to run a hotel with facilities, not a beer garden with a hotel." Wagner told the *Colorado Daily* that the hotel expected to hire additional jazz bands for a more subdued FAC gathering.

Wagner said that AIRCOA planned some other changes as well including repairs, lighting, and new plants. "What we want to do is to give it more of an element of class."

In the mid-1980s, the hotel did in fact schedule mellower events. In the fall of 1982, the Harvest House presented a Jazz Music Series to benefit the Colorado Music Festival. Next, under Wagner's direction, the hotel food and beverage manager, Karl

Hubmann, started wine tastings, expanding the house wine list from around twenty-five to one-hundred and unveiled plans to start a gourmet dinner club.

Meanwhile, the City of Boulder was wrestling with another raucous event — the Halloween Mall Crawl on Pearl Street that drew crowds of intoxicated revelers. The festivities had become increasingly difficult to control due to the same elements as the FAC but on an even larger scale. Officials tried to tone it down by promoting the Boulder Boo, a daytime family-oriented program, without success. But they kept at it, by hindering traffic to Pearl Street, and finally the Halloween Mall Crawl was quashed by Boulder officials in 1990.

Despite hotel manager Wagner's vow to tone down the FAC, spring of 1983 arrived and with it calls from neighbors to the city noise control officials. Close neighbors included the Harvest House apartment building residents as well as University of Colorado family housing residents near Folsom Street and Arapahoe Avenue. The *Daily Camera* reported that noise control officer Terry Schaeffer made weekly visits to the hotel with her meter to check for violations of the eighty-decibel limit, a common complaint. Another complaint was "disruption of quiet enjoyment in the home." In 1983, hotel management placed the responsibility for noise compliance on individual bands, instead of the hotel taking responsibility as in previous years. A band that was found guilty of violating the city's noise ordinance could be fined up to three-hundred dollars. Harold Fielden of The Legendary 4-Nikators said they once received a noise violation citation but the charges were later dismissed. Nevertheless, the increased monitoring placed a damper on the FAC.

Chocolate Lovers

A new alcohol-free event at the hotel brought out the best in Boulder. On Valentine's Day in 1983 an all-you-can-eat dessert buffet called the Chocolate Lovers' Fling, was a rousing success for Boulder County Safehouse (now known as Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence) Boulder's Safehouse was established in 1979 as domestic violence policies were enacted by legislatures across the country and women's shelters were opening nationwide.



The Chocolate Lovers Fling began at the Harvest House. Here, at the 6th annual in 1988, guests line up for fresh fruit with warm chocolate sauce.

Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

Longtime Daily Camera food critic John Lehndorff called the Fling “the sweetest, most scintillating food event of the year.” It seemed like everyone in Boulder participated in the annual chocolate feeding frenzy. The most popular Boulder restaurants and bakeries donated their time and special treats to the affair, including

the 1980s restaurant favorites Le Truffle, Two Bitts Catering, Small Wonder Café, New York Deli, Nancy's, Ristorante Paulino, Karen's Country Kitchen, Alfalfa's, A Piece of Cake, Potters, Le Francais Bakery, Pour La France, and Longmont's upscale Sébanton. Boulder celebrity politicians, elected officials, writers, and business moguls were judges. John Lehndorff presided over the judging for years. Hundreds of Boulder residents attended the event each year and helped raise thousands of dollars for a worthy cause.

The Safehouse fundraiser, a favorite Boulder tradition that began at the Harvest House, moved to larger digs after seven years.

Silver Anniversary

In July of 1984, the hotel reached its twenty-five-year anniversary. Along with it came a slew of special events commemorating the year the hotel opened. Nostalgia prevailed with a 1959 theme including a 1959 vintage car show, 1959 fashion show, 1959 movie showings, and 1959 hotel advertisements, and menus and other memorabilia on display in the lobby. Employees from 1959 were invited to the celebration. The University of Colorado Class of 1959 planned its twenty-fifth reunion at the hotel to coincide with the festivities.

The hotel cited July 13, 1959 as its official opening date and all through the week of July 8-15 there were activities and special menus coordinated with Boulder's longtime favorite eateries. Monday featured a Herbie's Deli lunch, Tuesday a Fred's Café 1959 steak, Wednesday was Goldini's Pizza and Thursday a Tom's Tavern Jumbo burger. Thursday also featured a live KBCO broadcast in Anthony's Gardens from 8 p.m. to 2

a.m. And Friday held a special FAC with three bands: The Girls, the Freddi-Henchi Band, and Inner City. Saturday was the Neusteters' fashion show luncheon, and Friday featured the Silver Ball, with dancing to the sixteen-piece big band sounds of Dick Hammergren. The Silver Ball was a semi-formal affair with attendees encouraged to dress in 1950s attire. Tickets were twenty-five dollars per couple and included an open bar and hors d'oeuvres.

Daily Camera editor Laurence T. Paddock wrote a flattering column about the Harvest House Hotel's 25th Anniversary on June 30, 1984. He remembered that the cornerstone was laid on June 29, 1959, although the first guests did not check in until July 11, 1959. "The hotel was supposed to be ready that day to serve lunch to a group of touring newspaper families. It was not," he stated, "Busloads of members of the National Editorial Association stopped briefly at the hotel anyway." The hotel general manager Art Bazata and NEA president E. W. Schergens placed current copies of the *Daily Camera*, *Rocky Mountain News*, and *Denver Post* newspapers inside a hole in the wall near the front entrance, then covered it up with plaster.

After the hotel's silver anniversary, it was business and updates, as usual. The hotel purchased a trendy mesquite grill and wood-burning ovens for a new restaurant with a lighter, fresher, seasonal menu.

Boulder Creek Path

In 1985, improvements began on the Boulder Creek Path, a two-year, million-dollar project. The Harvest House was on board with the Path from the beginning,

knowing it would enhance the overall hotel experience. The first phase of the multi-use path passed through hotel property, giving path recreationists a glimpse of the tennis, volleyball, FACs, and outdoor dining at the hotel. Hotel guests were inspired while observing the active lifestyles of Boulder walkers, joggers, bicyclists, and rollerbladers who brought immediate success to the extended path.



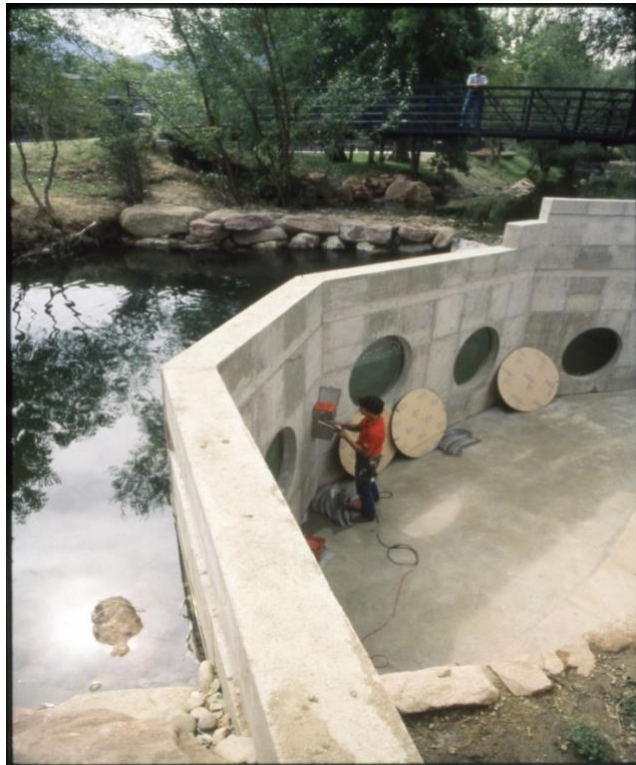
The first five-mile stretch of the Boulder Creek Path opened in 1987, running right through the Harvest House property. Bikers, joggers and walkers could see the hotel tennis players and outdoor diners while enjoying the Creek Path. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

A public celebration at Eben G. Fine Park in October of 1985 included a bagpipe-lead parade from the park to the Harvest House, followed by an afternoon of music and refreshments at the hotel.

The self-guided tour map about the Boulder Creek Path published in cooperation with the City of Boulder stated that the Harvest House Hotel was a Boulder landmark.

Everyone agreed that was true, although the designation was not officially on the books. An official designation would never materialize.

The hotel's owners then worked with Trout Unlimited to raise money for an educational fish observatory, designed with round windows built below the water level to give the public a view into the biology of the creek.



The Boulder Creek Fish Observatory for viewing trout and other aquatic life officially opened September 22, 1988. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

The fifty-five-thousand dollar project, supervised by the city's Gary Lacy, was funded by the Parks and Recreation Department, as well as local businesses and was planned to be maintained by the Harvest House. The Trout Observatory on the Boulder Creek Path

opened in September 1988, another popular amenity for the community in the hotel's backyard.

Soon to be Clarion Hotel

Plans for a multi-million-dollar renovation were announced in August of 1986.



General Manager Bill Zollars oversaw a four-million-dollar renovation, including the enclosing of one of the outdoor swimming pools and the renaming of the Hilton Harvest House to the Clarion Harvest House. The renovation was completed in 1989. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

The newest general manager Bill Zollars, who followed John Wagner, said the renovation would not increase rooms beyond the 270 the hotel already had. AIRCOA management was considering changing the franchise of the hotel from Hilton to Clarion.

Ultimately, the hotel became a Clarion hotel, which according to Zollars, was a step up. By the new year, the hotel signage read "Soon to be Clarion Hotel." According to Alice Swanson, director of public relations for the hotel, the Clarion chain required their properties to be four or five star hotels. "We will not be at that standard of quality ... until our rooms are renovated," said Swanson in a *Daily Camera* brief.

Noise Violations

Although there were many attempts to tone down the festivities, the weekly FAC returned in full force in the spring of 1988. By July, legal action was taken by merchants. "The owners of the Arapahoe Village Shopping Center have asked the court for emergency relief from the crush of cars attracted to the area each Friday afternoon by the Clarion Harvest House Hotel," a *Daily Camera* story reported. The complaint stated that the hotel should assume responsibility for the overflow of cars or stop the FACs immediately. The *Denver Post* followed with a story that lead, "Few college-town traditions are as invincible as the Friday Afternoon Club, and a little legal hassle over parking has not dampened spirits." By August the two sides had come to an agreement, though they declined to discuss terms of the agreement with the press.

In July, general manager Bill Zollars had resigned to accept a job at the Sheraton Denver Tech Center, another Clarion hotel. During his tenure in Boulder, Zollars became an integral part of the business community. He was president of the Boulder Hotel/Motel Association, led the advisory board of the Boulder Bureau of Conference Services and Cultural Affairs, and served on the Board of directors of the Boulder Chamber of Commerce. Zollars felt that after four years and the completed renovation of the hotel, it was time for a new challenge.

By September the hotel had chalked up seven noise violation citations for the FAC season. The hotel purchased a noise meter to keep track of the decibel levels and its management was still using a contract with the bands to make them responsible for

the cost of paying the citations. One manager said the hotel was doing pretty well with the bands, but were not monitoring as well when there was a disc jockey playing the music. Hotel neighbor William Martin, of 1444 Folsom Street, was one of the regular complainers. With the help of the court, William Martin and hotel officials worked out a system whereby Martin could contact the hotel night manager rather than call the city environmental enforcement officers, the *Daily Camera* reported. Judge Richard Hansen told hotel officials, "I don't want to see you and I bet you don't want to see me every Monday morning next spring and summer," a *Daily Camera* story reported.

Culture Shift

After several months without a general manager (following Zollars' departure), Terri Haack, previously general manager of the Wilmington Hilton Inn in Delaware, was named to the position in October 1988.



Terri Haack, who became general manager of the Clarion Harvest House in 1988, increased the bottom line by fifty-nine percent and was named Boulder Business Person of the Year in 1991 by the Boulder Chamber of Commerce. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

Haack, at just 34-years-old, was, at the time, the first woman general manager of the hotel. She hit the ground running with a significant culture change. In contrast to the Boulder's overall casual style and the hotel's relaxed dress code, Haack wore business suits to work every day and encouraged management employees to look more professional. Haack focused on appealing to traveling business customers. Employees received additional training for the new initiative. Calculators and other business desk supplies were placed in the first-class rooms.

The Clarion Harvest House started the decade by winning the Clarion hotel of the year award for outstanding appearance and service.



The Clarion Harvest House looking toward the outdoor dining area. Millennium Harvest House Hotel.

The hotel beat the 118 other members of the hotel chain for the top honors. In October, Haack accepted the award, which was given based primarily on anonymous inspections and guests' experiences at the hotel. The Harvest House was on track to be distinguished once again.

As it turned out, the FAC was not as invincible as the *Denver Post* had stated. While Terri Haack moved up, the FAC began to wind down. She was strict on noise limits and docked the bands' pay if they were too loud.

Haack was named "Boulder Business Person of the Year," by the Boulder Chamber of Commerce. In only two years, Haack had managed to increase profit by fifty-nine percent. A feature in the *Daily Camera* stated, "The award is an acknowledgment that Haack has succeeded in redefining the image of the Clarion Harvest from a prominent party palace to a professionally managed business-oriented hotel commanding top rates." The story said that sales were \$8.35 million, up twenty-five percent from 1988; meeting room space sales were \$130,000 up from \$54,000 two years earlier; banquet sales were \$1 million, up from \$650,000; occupancy rates were up three-and-one-half percent to sixty-nine percent and the average daily rate was seventy-five dollars up from \$63.34 two years earlier.

Haack soon moved on, enjoying an award-winning career in hospitality primarily in Los Angeles. In Boulder, her legacy might be summed up as the woman who finally ended the Harvest House FAC.

The Flood Plain

Boulder Creek was a beautiful setting for the hotel. But being in the 100-year flood plain led to several close calls over the years. Some residents recalled flooding in the spring of 1969 by the Harvest House bridge.



Flooding at the Harvest House in May 1969. Carnegie Library for Local History.

In January 1991, the Creek flooded onto the hotel's tennis courts. "It's overflowing onto the fish observatory," said Dave Mindoro, hotel manager. "But the dual safety glass should hold up. Hopefully it won't overflow into the creek path."



In January of 1991, Boulder Creek overflowed its banks spilling water onto the hotel's tennis courts and threatening nearby buildings including the tennis pro shop. Here, ice is removed from the creek. Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.

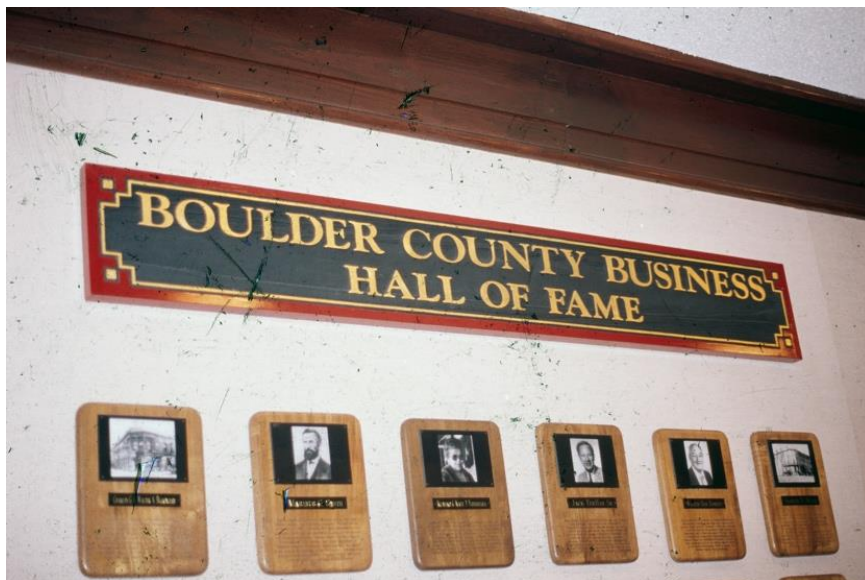
Previously, in 1979, Boulder's city planning board ordered the tennis bubble to be taken down from May to October due to flooding risks. But this flood was not during Boulder's typical high-risk flood season between May and October. Chunks of ice in the creek reportedly led to the flood.

Although water seeped onto the tennis courts, flowed over the fish observatory, and threatened nearby buildings, no significant damage was done to the hotel by the flooding.

In 1995, the hotel's third bungalow by Boulder Creek became the offices of John Ruger, Vice President of Operations in Boulder for the U. S. Olympic Festival — a big time event with three-thousand athletes representing some thirty-seven sporting events that came to town. Ruger loved holding festival meetings outside on the patio, showing off the beautiful view of Boulder Creek, and the variety of outdoor recreation on the Creek Path. In June, just before the festival, Boulder Creek ran right up to the edge of the banks, but luckily didn't spill over. It was a close call. Boulder's biggest flood was yet to come, but the Harvest House would again escape damage.

Business Hall of Fame

In 1992, the Boulder County Business Hall of Fame was formed by Jack Reed, the hotel's director of sales and marketing.



The Boulder County Business Hall of Fame began in 1992. Millennium Harvest House Hotel.

The Harvest House sponsored the organization for fourteen years, including creating a professional display of inductees. The Hall then moved to larger quarters at the Radisson Hotel in Longmont and some years later went virtual. In 2007, the Harvest House's general manager Daniel Pirrallo was inducted into the hall.



*Daniel Pirrallo at his induction into the Boulder County Business Hall of Fame.
Boulder Daily Camera.*

Still going strong, the Hall of Fame is a “who’s who” of the movers and shakers of Boulder County business.

Meanwhile, the Hotel Boulderado continued to be a success after its renovation and expansion in the 1980s. A new north wing opened in 1985 with sixty-one rooms connected by a skywalk over the alley to the north of the original building. Forty-eight more rooms were added in a second expansion (between the north wing and Broadway) in 1989.



Hotel Boulderado. National Register of Historic Places website, www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com.

Boulder was proud when its saved and restored Victorian hotel was individually landmarked by the City of Boulder in 1977, then earned a designation on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.

Prostitution Bust

Not all was rosy for the Harvest House in the 1990s. Boulder police arrested two prostitutes at the hotel in 1993. After undercover agents placed a call to an advertised escort service from the hotel, they sent two women who promised sexual acts for the starting price of two-hundred-fifty dollars. The women were promptly arrested and the police also found cash, a handgun, and marijuana on the suspects. The sting operation made good news copy, but was bad press for the hotel, just when they had recovered

from the controversial FAC years. This would not be the end of embarrassing press for the hotel.

The Hotel Becomes Regal

In 1996, the hotel became the Regal Harvest House. A *Daily Camera* story said management “decided to convert it to its Regal line because of the hotel’s location and potential.”



Regal Harvest House entrance. Millennium Harvest House Hotel.



Hotel room interior with view of mountains. Millennium Harvest House Hotel.

The Regal line was part of AIRCOA, a subsidiary of Richfield Hospitality Services, Inc., that had operated the Harvest House since 1982. Another multi-million-dollar renovation was planned to convey a more casual atmosphere, with an expanded lobby and a new main floor lounge. Dave Mindors, followed by Dean Hazelwood were general managers of the hotel during the Regal years.

The Pavilion

Although many FAC attendees fondly remember impromptu volleyball games on the Harvest House lawn, the Harvest House management thought it was time to let them go.



Volleyball courts at the Clarion Harvest House Hotel. Millennium Harvest House Hotel.

The courts had become a nuisance. “Everyone thought they were public courts,” Duke Paluch, director of Harvest House Tennis said. Paluch often had to kick the University of Colorado students off the courts.

In 1997, the volleyball courts were demolished and a new open-air pavilion was constructed. The new pavilion was perfect for exhibits, weddings and other outdoor events that needed shelter.



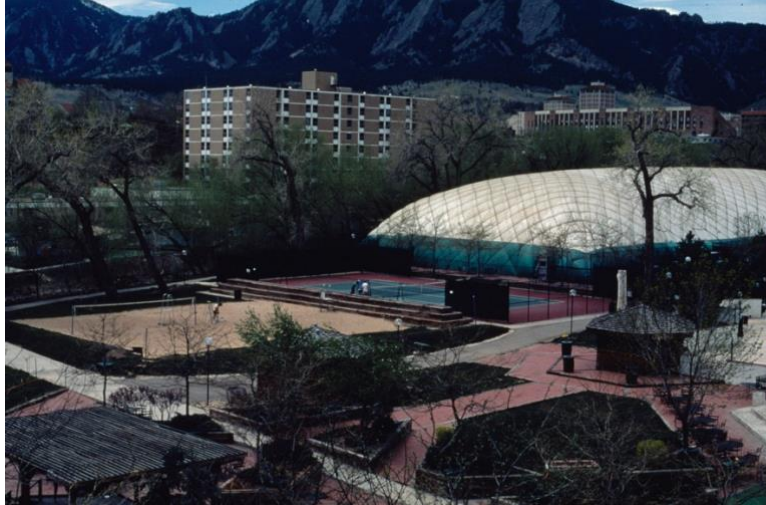
*Construction on the pavilion at the Regal Harvest House Hotel in 1997.
Carnegie Library for Local History/Boulder Daily Camera Collection.*

The city intervened and stated that the hotel would not be allowed to use heaters in the structure because it was in the flood plain. But hotel officials reminded city officials that the tennis bubble, also located in the flood plain, had used heaters since it first went up in 1979. A number of years later, the city relented, allowing temporary heaters in the pavilion. Though some people missed the volleyball courts, the pavilion became another favorite amenity in the hotel's outdoor gardens.

Part V

A New Millennium

In December 1999, the hotel was acquired by London-based Millennium & Copthorne Hotels P.L.C., and Bill Zollars returned as general manager. An upgrade and name change was announced in January 2001.



Tennis bubble, outdoor tennis court and volleyball court. Millennium Harvest House Hotel.

The new owners planned to gut and renovate all rooms and create forty new Millennium Classic rooms with special interiors and up-to-date technology. This time, however, most of the planned upgrades never happened. Daniel Pirrallo, who had worked his way up from the hotel's cigar bar, came on board as general manager in 2001. In March 2002, the hotel name formally changed to Millennium Harvest House.

Modernism Survey

Meanwhile, the city's landmarks program was going strong. There were now more than one hundred individual landmarks and several historic districts. In 1999, the Landmarks Board added Downtown as the sixth protected historic district.

Modernism wasn't well-represented in the designations, even though, as former City Council member and historic preservationist Dan Corson noted, Boulder was "lucky to have so many superb examples of post-war modernist architecture."

So, the city funded a survey of modern buildings. In 2000, architecture critic Michael Paglia, architect Leonard Segel, and historic preservation consultant Diane Wray — founders of the Modern Architecture Preservation League — produced a document for the City Planning Department titled “Modern Architectural Structures in Boulder: 1947-1977: Context and Survey Report.” The introduction, by architect Tician Papachristou, noted that because Boulder was small and a little isolated from major urban areas at the time, it allowed for “interesting, sophisticated, experimental and even outrageous works of architecture” during those mid-century years. The Harvest House, with its bold, curved design, was part of Boulder’s inventory of modern buildings.

In the document, the writers lamented Boulder’s many modern architecture losses and stated that it was uncharacteristic of “forward-looking Boulder.” They mentioned the Harvest House as a 1950s complex “intelligently planned” with the hotel, the Harvest Manor Apartments, and the adjacent shopping center. The authors concluded that the hotel was “crudely resurfaced” in the 1980s, and with the loss of the original shopping center the “overall formal order” and “sophisticated decorative scheme” of the complex had been destroyed. Their opinions would be a primary factor in the hotel’s demolition approval more than two decades later.

FAC Redux

General manager Pirrallo was curious about the hotel’s history. He had heard about the FAC for years and decided it was time for the party to be revived. “The FAC

used to be such a big part of living in Boulder,” Pirrallo said in a *Daily Camera* story.

“Everybody I know has a story about the good times they had. So we figured it was time to bring it back.”

Neighbors and city officials were less than enthusiastic. After meeting with all of the University Heights neighbors and the City of Boulder for nearly a year, Pirrallo convinced them that the event would remain under control. FAC returned in May of 2003. Pirrallo launched a contest seeking the most romantic and most embarrassing times from the original Harvest House FAC. Both handwritten and email entries poured in from folks sharing intimate memories about the beautiful people, wild times, drinking, volleyball, sex, and rock and roll at Boulder's favorite garden party. Stories of love and lust, marriages, and even children conceived during the crazy outdoor singles scene were shared.

Despite the attempted revival, the FAC never became the legendary happening it was in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Pirrallo moved on soon after the hotel's fiftieth anniversary.

Football Woes

A 1997 incident at the hotel grew into a scandal for the University of Colorado that attracted national media attention. It was the beginning of a series of allegations that would ultimately result in the resignation of the athletic director Dick Tharp, and university president Betsy Hoffman.

A Niwot High School student reported that she had been raped by two visiting football recruits at the hotel in December 1997. The young woman claimed that she reported the incident, but the University of Colorado regents said they did not know about the incident until a month later. Formal charges weren't filed, but Assistant District Attorney Mary Keenan said she warned coach Gary Barnett and other university officials to clean up their program and stop using sex and alcohol as recruiting tools.

The warnings were not heeded. Other accusations about the football program (not at the Harvest House) followed including claims of rape and assault in 2001. As the scandal unfolded, lawsuits were filed against the university, and the community was shocked by the football program culture that was revealed. A former recruiting aide, Nathan Maxcey, said he was in charge of hiring prostitutes to visit recruits at the Harvest House Hotel.

University of Colorado football had been longtime and important patrons of the hotel since the hotel's opening in 1959. After the lawsuits, the Harvest House lost a good portion of its football business. The team began staying at the new Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield. Dave Plati, Sports Information Director said, "We mainly moved to the Omni to get the team out of Boulder because many visiting fans were staying there and it was often rowdy when the kids were trying to sleep..."

By 2005, the rebuilding of the football program had begun under head coach Dan Hawkins. Though the team was no longer staying at the hotel, Pirrallo told the *Daily Camera* that one home game still translated into approximately two-hundred-thousand-

dollars in business at that time. Dan Hawkins' weekly radio show in the Coaches Corner bar was a popular draw as was the Saturday Afternoon Club, a pre-game food and drink ritual in the outdoor garden of the hotel for ticketholders who then walked over to Folsom Stadium. For those without tickets, a fifteen-foot screen television screen made watching the game an experience. The Boulder Buffs Club luncheons drew hundreds to the hotel.

But the poor showing of Hawkins' first year hit the hotel business bottom line hard. "It wasn't a good year," Pirrallo said in a *Daily Camera* story. "They didn't play well, the number of (opposing) teams that had a good fan base was relatively weak," he said. With declining football partnerships and revenue, it would be an uphill battle for the hotel in the years to come.

Annual Favorites

For years the hotel hosted the Triple A Radio Summit, an annual event for radio industry professionals. A lucky group heard pop superstar John Mayer perform an intimate acoustic set outside on the grounds of the hotel in 2004. "Widespread Panic" played at the hotel during one of the Triple A conferences as well. As the Millennium Harvest House facilities went downhill, the radio convention found a new home at the upscale St. Julien Hotel, in downtown Boulder. Other events moved on to better facilities as well.

The hotel was still a big part of the Bolder Boulder, the 10K race that began in 1979 and brought dozens of elite professional runners to town. In 2007, the hotel sold

every room for the Boulder Boulder race weekend. Many runners were staying at the hotel with hundreds of members of the public joining them for the Pasta Pasta, a hotel race day tradition since 1999. In a *Daily Camera* story, Pirrallo said, "As lean as these runners are, they consume a lot of calories."

In addition to the Pasta Pasta pre-race carb fest, the hotel hosted an after-race party, known as the Bash Bash. A Denver-based band called "The Fray," headlined the hotel's Bash Bash in 2004. Shortly thereafter the band signed a major record deal and released its debut album, that was certified double platinum, selling more than two million copies.

In 2007, more than eight-hundred people attended the FAC during the race weekend, and approximately one-thousand people showed up for the Bash Bash entertainment and awards ceremony.

Landmarks

The Hotel Boulderado celebrated its one-hundred-year anniversary in January 2009 with complimentary champagne, hors d'oeuvres, and music and tours for the public. The Boulderado's centennial coincided with the City of Boulder's sesquicentennial. The Boulder City Town Company was founded February 10, 1859 after a party of prospectors found gold in a stream called Gold Run near Gold Hill. Celebrations for the city and for the Boulderado continued throughout the year.

Meanwhile the Harvest House's fiftieth birthday in July came and went without any mention of landmarking the by the city or by the preservation nonprofit Historic

Boulder, Inc. Aside from the property's owner and the city, only recognized preservation organizations, such as Historic Boulder, Inc. and the Modern Architecture Preservation League, have the authority to initiate the landmarking process. The missed opportunity would prove fatal for the hotel.

The same month, *The New York Times* featured a story on the proposed demolition of the Century Plaza Hotel in West Los Angeles—a hotel that included some of the most significant history in Hollywood. The modernist curved hotel, a Los Angeles mid-century icon designed by architect Minoru Yamasaki, was to be replaced by two fifty-story towers. Preservationists, including the actress Diane Keaton, got involved and the National Trust for Historic Preservation added the hotel to its eleven Most Endangered Places list for 2009. “We need to honor our city's history more than we need two new towers,” Keaton said in *The New York Times* story. Richard Moe, president of the National Trust added his belief that demolishing “a perfectly good building is antithetical to the idea of sustainability.” The article stated that “Mr. Moe said it could take 50 years or more for even a highly efficient building to save as much energy as is expended in the demolition and construction processes.” An effort began to highlight the historical and architectural importance of the structure.



*The Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles designed by Minoru Yamasaki, circa 1966.
[Security Pacific National Bank Collection]/Los Angeles Public Library.*

After a fight for several years, a dramatic reversal changed the Los Angeles hotel's fate. The Century Plaza was saved from demolition by an investment group. In 2016, a mixed use renovation began that kept the hotel, now in the Fairmont group, and repurposed some of the rooms as residences, while including other spaces as retail. It was a huge win for the Los Angeles Conservancy preservation group that, on its website states, "The Century Plaza Hotel is not just a pretty face. It is linked to countless events of historic importance such as award presentations, presidential press conferences, political fundraisers, peace rallies and protests, inaugural celebrations, and all types of social gatherings..." Some people noticed the similarities between the Century Plaza and

Boulder's Harvest House, but the outcome in Boulder would be neither preservation nor sustainability.

In 2019 Historic Boulder, Inc. initiated the landmarking process for Marpa House, a Buddhist communal living center and former fraternity built in 1923.



Public hearing to save and landmark Marpa House, 2019. Photo by author.

Marpa House had major alterations, but it was significant for being a Jewish fraternity for a number of years as well as serving as an important part of the city's Buddhist history. SAE-ZBT-Marpa House was designated the city's 201st individual landmark in 2020. A significant piece of Boulder's history was saved.



Marpa House in 2016. Carnegie Library for Local History.

The Harvest House remained in business, but locals couldn't help but notice that the hotel was tired and in need of sprucing up. The carpets should have been replaced ages ago. Online reviews from hotel guests weren't kind.

In April 2019, Tony Seibert died at his home in Vail at age 78. His obituary in the *Vail Daily* mentioned that he made Anthony's Gardens at the Hilton Harvest House FAC the place to be. Decades later, people still reminisced about "The Article" and the legendary times at the Harvest House FAC. Seibert's passing was a reminder that it was the end of an era.

[A Helping Hand](#)

The Harvest House was always there for Boulder. Over the years, general manager Pirrallo built on the hotel's reputation for philanthropy as did subsequent hotel

managers. For example, Pirrallo formed a partnership with arts groups in 2004, launching a program called "Thyme for Culture," named after the hotel's restaurant "Thyme on the Creek." For every ten-dollars spent in the restaurant, a customer received a two-dollar token to donate to one of eighteen local arts organizations.

When Boulder's biggest flood came in September 2013, the Harvest House escaped damage, but management immediately responded to community needs with steeply discounted rooms and waived fees for evacuated flood victims.

The COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020 devastated the hospitality business. People stayed at home to avoid catching the virus. Conferences were cancelled one by one, and travel plans were put on hold. Still, the Millennium Harvest House managed to hang on through these tough times.

The hotel put up residents who were forced to evacuate during the Marshall Fire, on December 30, 2021, the most destructive fire in Boulder County history.

Redevelopment Announced

In March 2021 the *Daily Camera* reported that developers were eyeing the hotel for a new student housing complex. It wasn't the first time that developers looked at the struggling property. For years there was talk of the hotel becoming a conference center for the university. Now, a Georgia-based company ironically named Landmark Properties, Inc., described its plans to demolish the Harvest House and replace it with three four-story buildings containing nearly three-hundred apartments.

As of 2023, the University of Colorado Boulder website boasted a student population of more than 36,000. Lack of student housing had been an issue in Boulder for decades, and since a majority of the students lived off-campus, the burden of housing fell on the city.

Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau CEO Mary Ann Mahoney bemoaned the potential loss of this major Boulder hotel. Other hotels in Boulder were demolished to develop student housing around the same time. The Best Western Plus Boulder Inn, a fixture on 28th Street for fifty-two years, closed its doors in late 2021, to be redeveloped into a ninety-two-unit student housing center called Hub Boulder. The Boulder Outlook Hotel & Suites also was sold to make way for more student housing.

According to newspaper stories, the City of Boulder is set to receive approximately twenty-million dollars cash, in lieu of including affordable housing in the redevelopment.

Demolition Approved

The city's historic preservation ordinance, unanimously approved by city council in 1974, requires that any building fifty years old or older must be reviewed before significant remodel or demolition, "to prevent the loss of buildings that may have historic or architectural significance and to provide the time necessary to initiate [landmark] designation or to consider alternatives to demolition of the building." The Landmarks Board, a group of five volunteers, are appointed by city council and are responsible for implementing Boulder's historic preservation code to preserve and

protect the historic architecture of Boulder. If a structure was built pre-1940, a subcommittee of the Landmarks Board conducts a review, while historic preservation staff reviews post-1940 buildings.

Historic preservation staff reviewed and approved a full demolition of the Millennium Harvest House Hotel in 2021, referencing the 2000 modernism survey and stating that “the building was significantly modified in the 1980s and is not potentially eligible for landmark designation.”

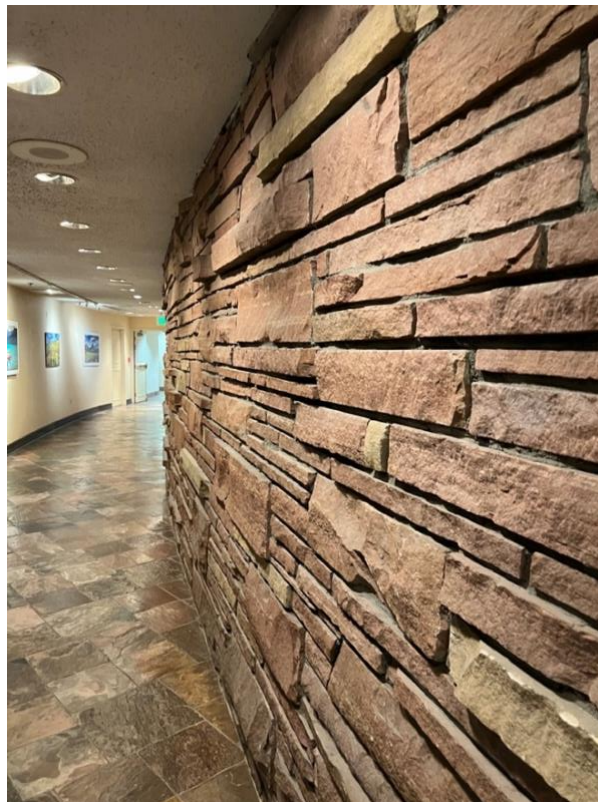
Staff requires professional documentation of the building's history and architecture as a condition of the demolition approval. Carl McWilliams of Cultural Resource Historians was hired by the developers to “write the hotel's obituary” as he stated in conversation in 2021. His final report, the Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Architectural Inventory Form, was completed in November 2021. The development was then cleared to move forward to the Planning Board.

An opinion piece was published on February 12, 2022 in the *Daily Camera* by the executive director of Historic Boulder, Inc. Leonard Segel, one of the authors of the 2000 modernism survey. Segel and Historic Boulder opposed the demolition of the hotel, for history, architecture and environmental reasons, and questioned the city's lack of dialogue with the public, but the organization stopped short of initiating the landmarking process. Comprehensive Planning Manager Kristofer Johnson said the redevelopment project followed protocols of the Boulder Revised Code, a *Daily Camera* story reported. While Segel wrote against demolition and in favor of “revitalizing” the

hotel, the historic preservation program had cited Segel’s 2000 document as evidence that it wasn’t eligible for landmarking.

Sustainability

The City of Boulder prides itself on both having a renowned historic preservation program and being a leader in sustainability, and the two often go hand in hand. Preservationists like to quote the phrase, “the greenest building is one that is already built.” But apparently repurposing the hotel wasn’t seriously considered. As architects embrace steel construction for sustainability, climate and wildfire resistance, the Harvest House stands as a solid example of steel construction excellence, and the rustic sandstone walls throughout the building look to be in perfect condition.



A sandstone wall at the Harvest House in August of 2023. Photo by author.

Former Boulder City Council member and historic preservationist Dan Corson was appalled by the city’s decision to approve demolition. “I fail to see how it is sustainable to demolish a building of many rooms with bathrooms to build a new building of many rooms with bathrooms,” Corson stated in an email.

Final Approval

On August 8, 2023, the Planning Board voted 4-2 to approve the new development, according to *Boulder Reporting Lab*. Boulder City Council failed to ‘call up’ the project for consideration at its September 7, 2023 meeting, and, by default, it approved the demolition and redevelopment. So far, no investment group or celebrity has stepped up to stop the demolition.



Millennium Harvest House Hotel, 2023. Photo by Evan Semón.

In the summer of 2023, the hotel was still in use, although according to one guest it felt “eerie” inside. The turnstile door at the front entrance was out of service.

Several elevators were not functioning. The hotel's parking lot, once too small for the Sunday brunch and Friday Afternoon Club crowds, held a dozen or so cars but felt largely empty. For old timers, it might have been reminiscent of the state of the Hotel Boulderado in 1960.

And so, the end is near for the Harvest House Hotel. Boulder will lose an award-winning unique modernist building, as well as the location of significant social history that includes many of the key themes of Boulder — science, the University of Colorado, counterculture, rock and roll, and outdoor sports and recreation.

Perhaps someday there be a tour where one can stand at the site and imagine a bold hotel that helped a small city develop into a world-class center for science, and also became a place where only-in-Boulder memories were made for more than sixty years.

Author's Note

This research and initial narrative was produced in collaboration with General Manager Daniel A. Pirrallo and the Millennium Harvest House Hotel in 2008, as a part of the hotel's fiftieth anniversary. The draft was edited and revised in 2023.

About the Author



Photo by Evan Semón.

Carol Taylor is a regional history researcher and writer based in Boulder, and a local history columnist for the *Daily Camera* newspaper since 2001.

Taylor is the 2022 recipient of the Square Nail Award, given by the Boulder Heritage Roundtable to individuals dedicated to the cause of preserving Boulder County's cultural heritage and history.

Currently, Taylor is working on the histories of several privately-owned western ranches. Visit carolellentaylor.com for more information on past work and current projects.

Acknowledgements

I knew the Harvest House was a special place, as I've heard so many stories from people during the forty years I have lived in Boulder. Still, I was amazed to discover just how integral this hotel was to Boulder's development as a city.

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