

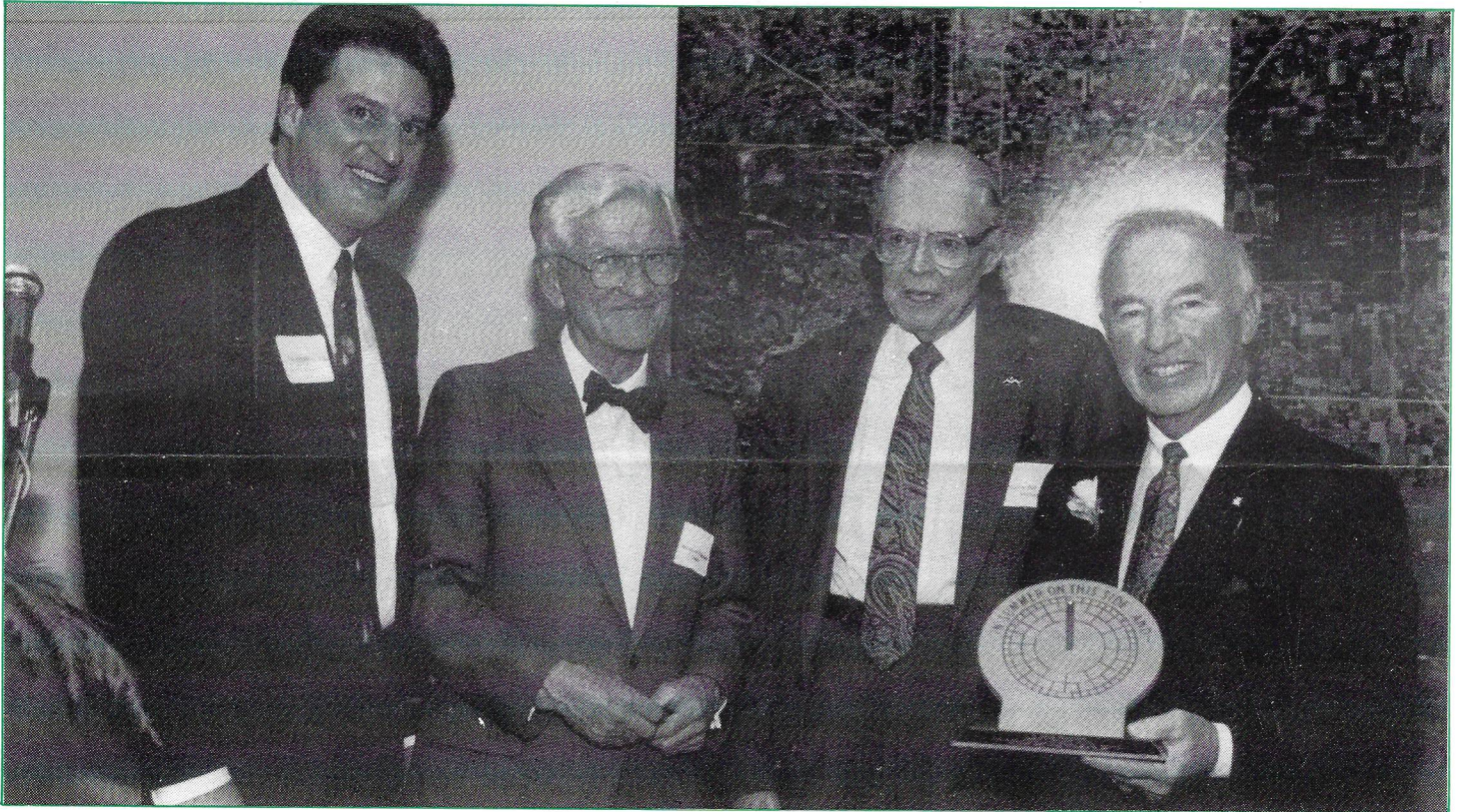
# Greenway

## N E W S L E T T E R

Vol. 16 No. 1

Spring 1994

### Greenway Chairman Receives George E. Cranmer Award



Award recipient Joe Shoemaker in the company of (l to r) Tim Schultz, Chairman and President of Colorado Open Lands; Rev. Chappell Cranmer, George E. Cranmer's son; and the Hon. William H. McNichols, Jr., former Mayor of Denver.

**O**n November 29th, 1993, Joe Shoemaker, Chairman of the Greenway Foundation, was honored by Colorado Open Lands as the 1993 recipient of the George E. Cranmer Award.

Amidst a gathering of numerous officials and dignitaries, this prestigious award was presented to Mr. Shoemaker by Tim Shultz, Chairman of the Board and President of Colorado Open Lands. Colorado Open Lands (COL) is a private tax deductible non profit organization dedicated to the preservation of open space in Colorado.

The efforts of COL will insure that future generations will continue to enjoy the unique beauty of Colorado's outdoor environment.

The George E. Cranmer Award is named for the former Director of Parks and Improvements for Denver from 1935 to 1947. He is remembered as a man of action who inspired the City to acquire Red Rocks Theater, the Denver Mountain Parks System, Winter Park Recreation Area and land for many of the Denver area's parks and thoroughfares. The sundial in Cranmer Park represents a tradition of progressive

conservationism and a reminder that time can be both a friend and adversary of the visionary.

Mr. Shoemaker expressed his gratitude to COL for an award that "means a great deal to me personally, especially because many years ago when I was the Manager of Public Works for Denver, I met and got to know and respect Mr. Cranmer." Mr. Shoemaker accepted the award on behalf of his current and past members of the Board of Directors and the many supporters of the Greenway Foundation.



## Cherry Creek South Greenway Continues To Expand



*A host of trail supporters all gathered together to officially "cut the ribbon", symbolizing the dedication and opening of the newest addition to the Cherry Creek South Greenway.*

**O**n Saturday, June 4, 1994, the newest section of the Cherry Creek South Greenway was dedicated. A host of local and state officials and dignitaries were present at the mid-morning ribbon cutting ceremony, formally opening the connector trail along Scott Gulch between Cherry Creek and the Pinery Neighborhood. Financial support for the construction of this newest addition included the Pinery Neighborhood Association, Douglas County Parks and Open Space, GO Colorado/Colorado State Trails, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, Colorado Department of Transportation, Castle Rock Construction Company, and numerous

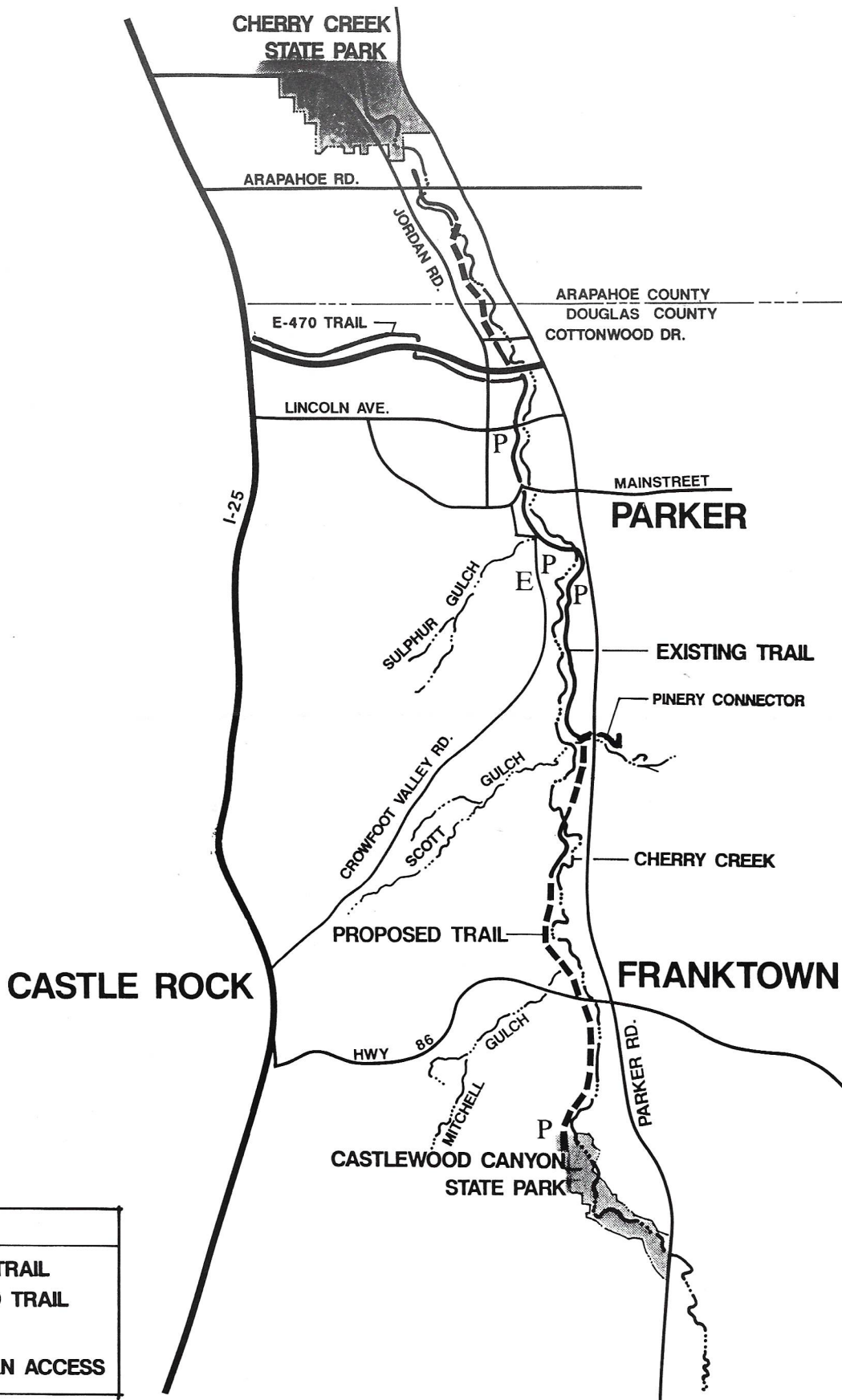
individual and corporate contributors.

Efforts continue to acquire the needed land, design and construct the remaining twelve miles that will complete this 23 mile direct connection between Cherry Creek State Park and Castlewood Canyon State Park. Funding from the State of Colorado will allow the trail to be extended approximately two miles out of each of the two state parks. The Greenway Foundation has completed the design of the trail section within the City of Aurora and construction of that 2.5 miles will begin later this year. Initial alignment and design efforts have begun on the 2.5 mile section within Arapahoe County, with the goal

of initial construction taking place in late 1994. Efforts are also underway to acquire the funding and right of way for the remaining five miles from the trail's current stopping point at Scott Gulch, southward towards Castlewood Canyon State Park.

While definitive progress continues to occur, it is never as fast as anyone would prefer. However, once completed, the Cherry Creek South Greenway will be a model trail for recreational and commuting enthusiasts of all ages. As always, feel free to contact the Greenway Foundation, (698-1322), with any questions or concerns pertaining to this extensive and on-going project.



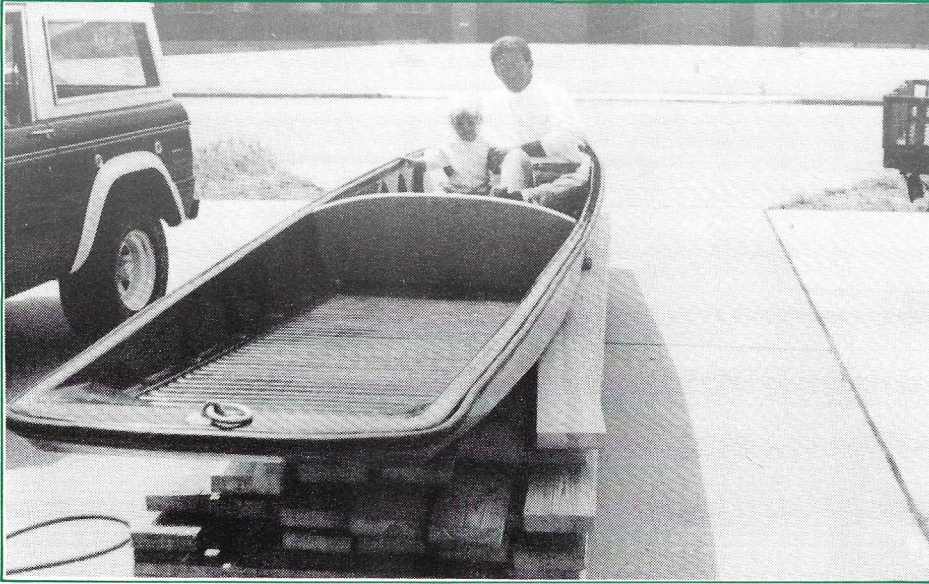


# LEGEND

- EXISTING TRAIL
- - - PROPOSED TRAIL
- P PARKING
- E EQUESTRIAN ACCESS



## "Punt The Creek" Receives Widespread Support



*Jeff Shoemaker, Director of the Greenway Foundation introduces his daughter Camille to the only known punt in the United States.*

**T**he Greenway Foundation's longstanding goal to bring recreational boating to the waters of Downtown Cherry Creek is well on its way to becoming a reality. Best known as "Punt the Creek", named after the type of boat that will

transport passengers up and down Cherry Creek, this new and innovative effort by the Greenway Foundation has received the full endorsement and support of Mayor Wellington Webb and his administration.

Since the official "kick-off" in early

1993, an aggressive and ongoing capital campaign has been underway to raise the \$1.1 Million needed to construct Phase I of the project. Phase I will cover the section of Cherry Creek from Larimer St. to Delgany St.

As of this writing, well over 85% of the needed funds have already been committed from a host of private and public institutions. Preliminary design has been completed, with final design and engineering taking place this summer. A host of permits are required prior to construction taking place, and these have been submitted as well. We also just received the first of our six Punts, which will help our design team prepare the construction documents for the gates and lock that will be part of the project.

It is our intent to finalize the design and permitting process over the course of the next several months, begin construction this fall and have this unique amenity "open for business" by Memorial Day of 1995. We look forward to the day next summer when we can escort you along the historic waters of Cherry Creek via the only Punts in the United States!

## The Greenway Experience (A Rough Year!)

by Carl Crookham  
Greenway Experience Coordinator

**T**he Greenway Experience has been recognized nationally for over 20 years as one of the most successful dropout prevention and recovery programs in the Country. This year, a new principal and assistant principal were assigned to Zuni Alternative High School, the home of the program. These administrators stated that "real" education occurs best in a traditional classroom and therefore the Greenway Experience wasn't needed. They cancelled the program but later admitted that their decision was based on their fear of potential injuries occurring on one of the field trips. I offered the statistic that over 60,000 children had been on the tour, hosted by over 2000 teen guides, with no related injuries, but to no avail.

Learning that the program was cancelled, more than 20 students who came to enroll as Greenway Experience



*Jose Martinez has an ore car full of third graders as they explore the restored ghost town of Montana City.*





Tour guide Theresa Macias gathers a group of tour kids around a buggy to talk about transportation then and now.



Teen guides check river bank construction as they wait for a bus load of children, near the new site for Elitch's.

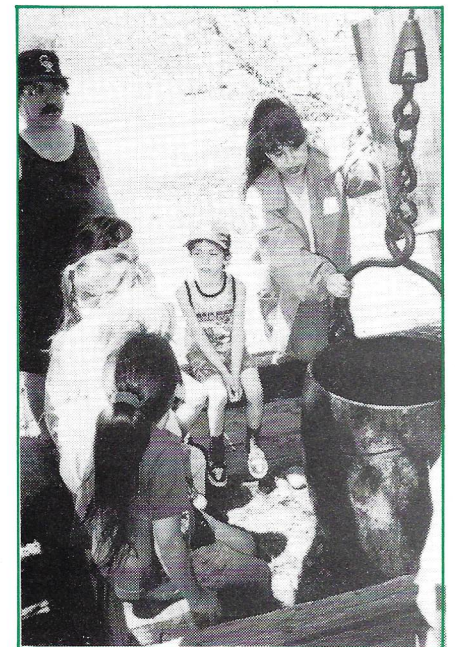


Eugene Thill, the top guide in the Greenway Experience tour program, does the Mulberry bush song with a third grade class around one of Denver's few Mulberry bushes, located at Frontier Park.

teen guides simply walked away. I fought hard for the program all year and was finally allowed to do fifteen tours this spring. Fifteen out of more than one hundred previously scheduled tours makes for many angry teachers and over 5000 very disappointed elementary children.

Then, the final blow. Two years ago I was selected from over 7000 nominees, from all fifty states, to receive the National Gold Medal for Teaching Excellence. This is as good as it gets in

education. At the end of this school year, however, I was fired from my position in D.P.S. alternative education. I have always chosen to work with the at-risk, angry, hurt and disappointed teen. I am now working hard to find a high school that would like to have The Greenway Experience as part of its dropout prevention curriculum. I am hopeful that this will occur so that this unique and very successful program can continue.



Greenway tour guide Julie Cervantes explains gold rush mining to second graders and a parent.

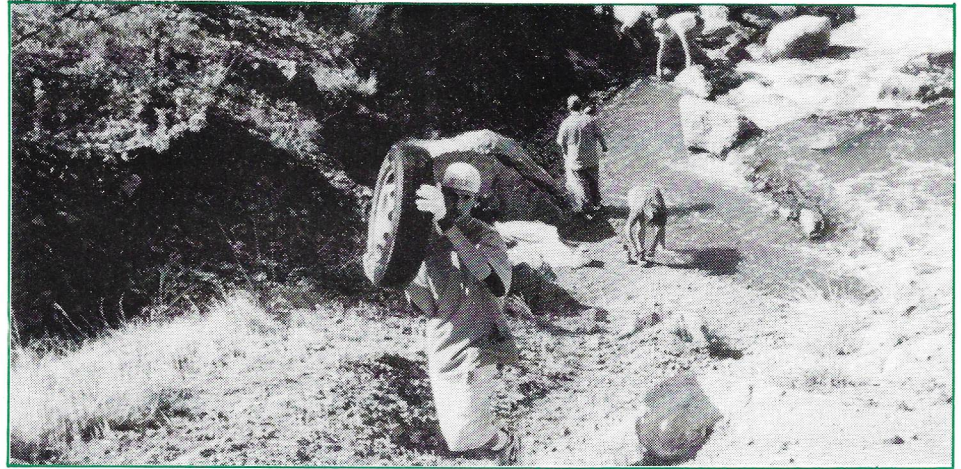


# The River Heritage Society-The New Kid On The River

by Carl Crookham  
Board Member  
The River Heritage Society

**T**hree years ago a far-sighted, community-spirited man named Jim Pearson gathered friends around him and proposed a new non-profit organization. The organization was to have two simple but important themes: First, the organization would encourage the recreational use of Colorado's waterways, with an emphasis on environmental concerns. "Use, but don't abuse!" Secondly, the organization would reach out to the at-risk youth in the community and use a series of seasonal outdoor adventure activities to help them develop positive community spirit as well as provide them with repeated opportunities to work with professionals on their own problems.

Three years have gone by now and The River Heritage Society has firmly taken root. The Executive Director is Mr. J. Randall Choun who, with many years as a businessman, consultant,



*Denver Public Schools Alternative High School student Nick Escobar carries one of over 50 tires that the kids removed from Denver area streams. This day's work earned Nick his place on the Platte River raft trip.*

systems analyst and international ocean yachtsman, is backed by a strong, broad based and expanding Board of Directors.

The strength of T.R.H.S. was demonstrated a few weeks ago when they hosted one of the largest number of white water rafts ever launched at one time on the South Platte River. On Saturday, May 14, over one hundred at-risk youth from the Denver metro area

cleaned over 200 miles of heavily littered roadside in and around Denver. This community spirited work earned them a day on the River as part of this record setting raft trip. On Saturday May 21, the Rocky Mountain Youth Regatta was held. Over 150 people rafted from Chatfield Reservoir to the Englewood Golf Course. They stopped at Riverfront Mall for a picnic lunch and some fun words of encouragement



*Zuni Alternative H.S. students, volunteers from Jeffco Open Spaces and volunteers from The River Heritage Society pose at the end of the clean-up day in Bear Creek Canyon.*

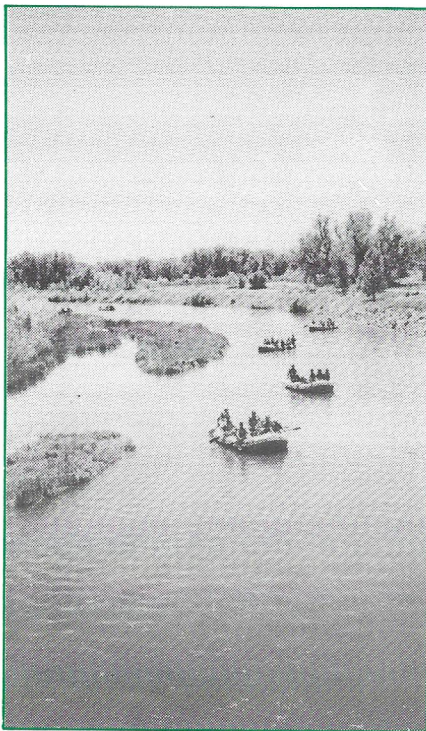




Teens from three different parts of the city become a team for the day as they enjoy their well earned trip in the First Rocky Mountain Youth Regatta.

from a number of Littleton, Englewood and Denver dignitaries.

The organization that really made the regatta possible was the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA).



The first six, of over twenty rafts, round a bend near Bowles Ave. as the Platte's biggest raft trip ever reaches its halfway point.

Owners of many different raft companies donated rafts, licensed guides and all needed equipment. The guides came from all over the state with just one goal in mind: to give the young

people an exciting and well earned day on the River. The members of CROA have also donated hundreds of additional rafting opportunities, worth thousands of dollars, to The River Heritage Society. As the young people continue to participate in community service projects such as working with the elderly, working in shelters, tree plantings and more, they will earn rafting adventures on exciting Rivers around the state.

T.R.H.S.'s year round program focuses on the following: rafting in the Summer; hiking and basic rock climbing in the Fall; downhill and cross country skiing, snow shoeing and winter survival training during the Winter; and bicycle repair and touring in the Spring. Young people can select their events, but are encouraged to participate in all four areas of recreational activities. Each activity is earned by completing a community spirited project one or two weeks prior to the activity taking place. Every activity teams the young participants with volunteer mentors, who share not only the adventure, but areas of concern relating to the young person's lives.

For more information on this exciting program, call The River Heritage Society at 477-0379



Food, donated by area stores and served by River Heritage Society volunteers, supplies new energy to rafters at the River Front Mall half way stop.



## TrashFest 1994

### "Take Pride in Your Platte!"

**C**olorado's Ocean Journey, along with the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club and High Country River Rafter, presented the 2nd Annual TrashFest—A Platte River Cleanup on Saturday May 7, in honor of National Trails and Rivers Cleanup Week.

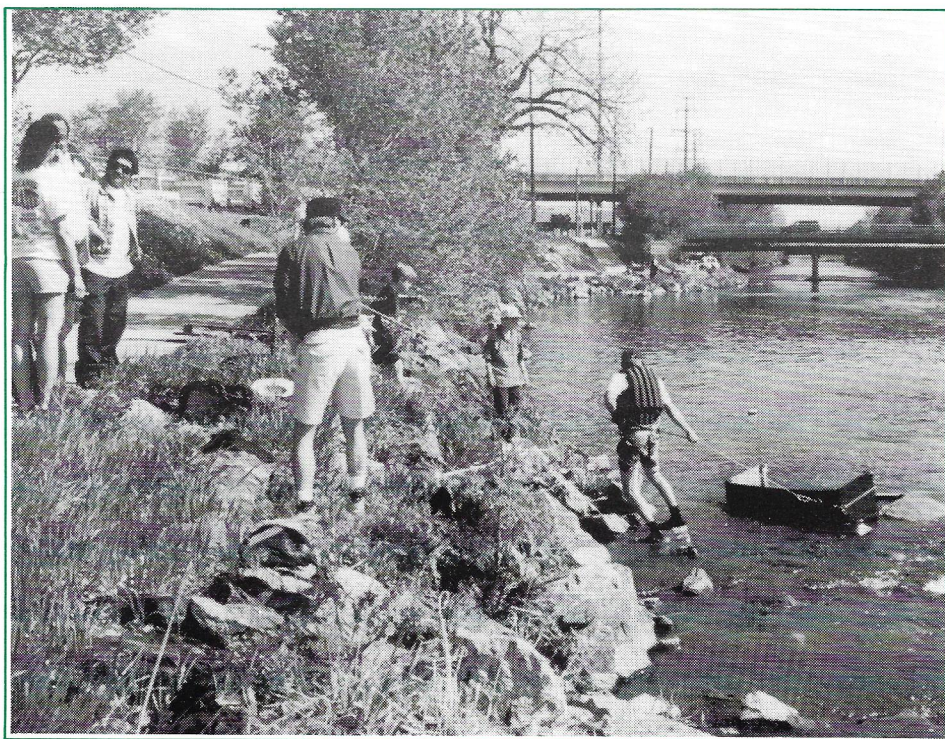
Local high school students, canoers, rafters, and outdoor enthusiasts floated along the South Platte River or walked along its banks from Oxford to 38th Avenue in search of unsightly trash and debris.

Nearly 100 volunteers ranging in age from 4 to 70 scoured 12 miles of River and 6 miles of banks and bikepaths, and picked up, among other things:

8 shopping carts, 18 tires, 12 golf balls, four 55-gallon drums, 2 hand puppets, 1 Gucci bag, 2 water heaters, 1 truck wheel (circa 1926), 1 car axle, 1 pick-up camper shell, 3 partly used rolls of aluminum foil, 1 sofa and armchair (matching set) ... and **innumerable** pieces of styrofoam "popcorn", straws, strips of carpet, plastic grocery bags, cans, and bottles.

The removal of these items made the South Platte River a safer, more pleasant site for all, including the wildlife that relies on clean habitats for survival.

Colorado's Ocean Journey intends to continue sponsoring TrashFest cleanups on an annual basis, and hopes



the event will grow to include other rivers and communities in the future.

The generous sponsors of TrashFest 1994 included Pepsi-Cola, Arby's, Blimpies, King Soopers, BFI Waste Systems, Metro Wastewater Reclamation District, Zangs Brewery, Platte Valley Trolley, Ace Hardware, and Glad Bag and Wrap. Thanks also to the Denver Parks and Recreation crews who helped us out.

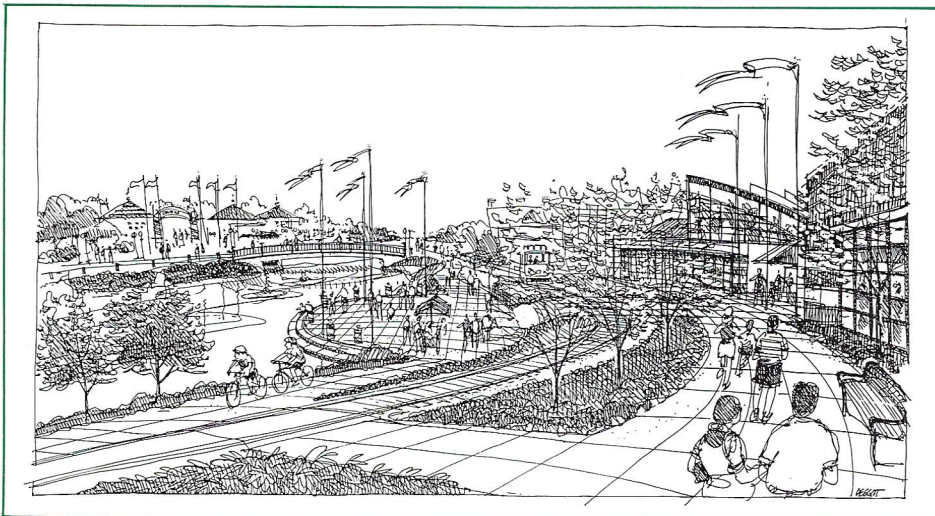
Colorado's Ocean Journey, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to developing an interactive and

educational aquarium in Denver's Central Platte Valley. Creating a dynamic synergy with the nearby Children's Museum, Elitch Gardens, and the new Coors Field, this world-class facility will focus on water from the mountain tops of the world to the bottom of the sea.

Exhibits will focus on regional water issues and aquatic life, including Rocky Mountain aquifers, wetlands, and trout streams, to teach visitors about the importance of water in our state. Outdoor exhibits will compliment the natural beauty of the South Platte River.

Other displays will explore a variety of aquatic and marine environments around the world. A journey through an Indonesian rain forest leads to an indigenous coral reef, where the creatures of the deep ocean will reveal the mysteries of their underwater homes. Changing displays will showcase weather, tides, and many other wonders of our watery planet.

The more we understand about the importance of water and the life it sustains throughout the world, the more we will value and attempt to protect this precious resource.





# That Insurance Company Isn't The Only "Good Neighbor"

by Ken Fletcher  
Platte Valley Trolley

**T**he Platte Valley Trolley is entering its sixth year of operation along the South Platte River and its fourth year of operating into Lakewood Gulch. Bicyclers, roller bladers and walkers have waved thousands of hands in greeting as the car has shuttled back



Open-car 1977 crosses one of the many bridges used to span the meandering Dry Gulch Creek as it travels through Lakewood Gulch.



People line up at the Children's Museum to board 1977 for a trip along the South Platte. The bike/walk/skating path and River are on the right.

and forth along the River.

Venerable open-car 1977 has proved its unique value along the Greenway. Car 1977 has been both a vehicle in which to take a joy ride but has also been there in the event of an emergency. In constant radio contact

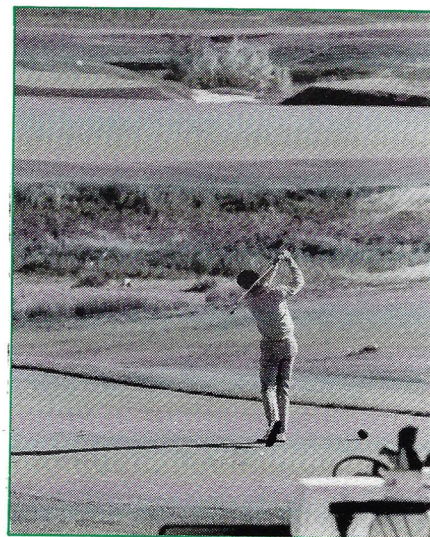
with the office on 7th St. its crew has, on numerous occasions, been able to get emergency vehicles to respond to the scene of a biker's or skater's accident in as little as three minutes. So insurance company, you're not the only "Good Neighbor" in town.

## Attention Golfers!

will take place. Because we will be using a "shotgun" format, participation will be limited to 40 participants. Once again we will be using a "scramble" format.

For a donation of \$100, (\$50 is tax deductible), participants will enjoy 18 holes of golf, including cart, and lunch after the tournament. Tee-off will be promptly at 8:30 a.m.

If you would like to join us in the fun day of golf, lunch and friendship, please fill out the form below and return it to the Greenway Foundation office at: 1666 South University Boulevard, Suite B, Denver, CO 80210  
**We hope to see you on the 11th of August!**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

I've enclosed a check for \_\_\_\_\_ player(s) at \$100 per player.

My guests will be: 1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_



## Board of Directors

Joe Shoemaker  
*Chairman/Treasurer*

Bill Avery  
*Vice Chairman*

Edna Doyle  
Larry Elrod  
Jerry Johnson  
Steve Metcalf  
Jerry and Cynthia Nagel  
Eldon O'Neal  
Paul O'Rourke  
Kip Stastny

Jeff Shoemaker  
*Director*

## Your Support Makes the Difference!

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$30.00 for you or a friend. Included in the membership is a Membership Card entitling you to:

- All copies of the newsletter printed in the year you are a member.
- All new members will receive a copy of our book "Returning the Platte to the People".

### COMMEMORATING MEMBER

For \$100.00, have a contribution made towards the Greenway Tree Fund in the name of a friend or loved one. (Also includes all privileges of an Annual Member).

### CORPORATE MEMBER

\$250.00 includes a limited edition print by well known artist William Condit entitled "Seasons Along the Platte." All prints are signed and numbered by the artist. (Also includes all privileges of an Annual Member).



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Denver, Colorado 80210  
(303) 698-1322

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Denver, Colorado  
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