

Bill Davidson  
01-25-2016 by Harry Zirkelbach  
Stars and Sun date 34310

The Davidsons were plank-owners of property and home on Alpine Circle, Grand Lake, Colorado. Actually this is a separate community, Columbine Lake, north and west of that mountain town. It features its own Lake, Columbine, and all the surrounding property is divided into somewhat one-half acre plots. When we met the Davidsons, all lots had been sold; most lots had a home suitable and used for year round comfort

There were homes along the mile-long shore of the Lake, then a road bordering those homes. Then homes along that far-side; plus niches and the four corners of the property had lesser roads to fill-in the community development. Alpine Circle was one. In the east corner, a circular path, homes along both side of that road.

All roads are unpaved, maintained by the community. Effective speed bumps, shallow ruts across the road, controlled traffic.

Columbine Lake was designed as a second home community, kind of a "Get Away from Denver" investment. In fact, most owners had homes on the Eastern Slope.

Bill and Winnie Davidson were an exception; lived here year round, since the community began. They were an invaluable next door neighbor, keeping an eye on traffic, people and property year round.

The Davidsons had lived in Grand Lake for years, operated a A&W Root Beer restaurant in Granby, a few miles south. That main drag restaurant Street was US 40 from Denver to Steamboat Springs and cities west.

The store closed winters, Most employees, youngsters from the valley.

Bill Davidson had been involved in the Columbine Lake development, was an early buyer, moving here permanently. A few years later they sold the restaurant, concentrated on making Columbine Lake a thriving community; remained until Bill's death in 2013. For both, not their first wedding, no children together. While operating the restaurant, these employees became family, many times in the eyes of those youngsters too.

Free of restaurant duties, the Davidsons concentrated on the community all year. Winnie settled into home keeper. Began devoting spare hours daily to caring for



the wildlife, of which there was plenty; Columbine Lake borders on the southwest corner of 260,000 acre Rocky Mountain Park.

Winnie had no favorite animal; she loved them all. In time, all the yard had contraptions for feeding birds, elk, moose and fox. She bought seeds, made suets and other meals to feed them. She hung feeders throughout the yard, would sit outside for hours on porch, or chair. She greeted wildlife, speaking softly. In time most wild animals would walk up to her, even accept petting. Always spoke to them as friend, yet would even chastise when she felt they had broken one of her invisible rules.

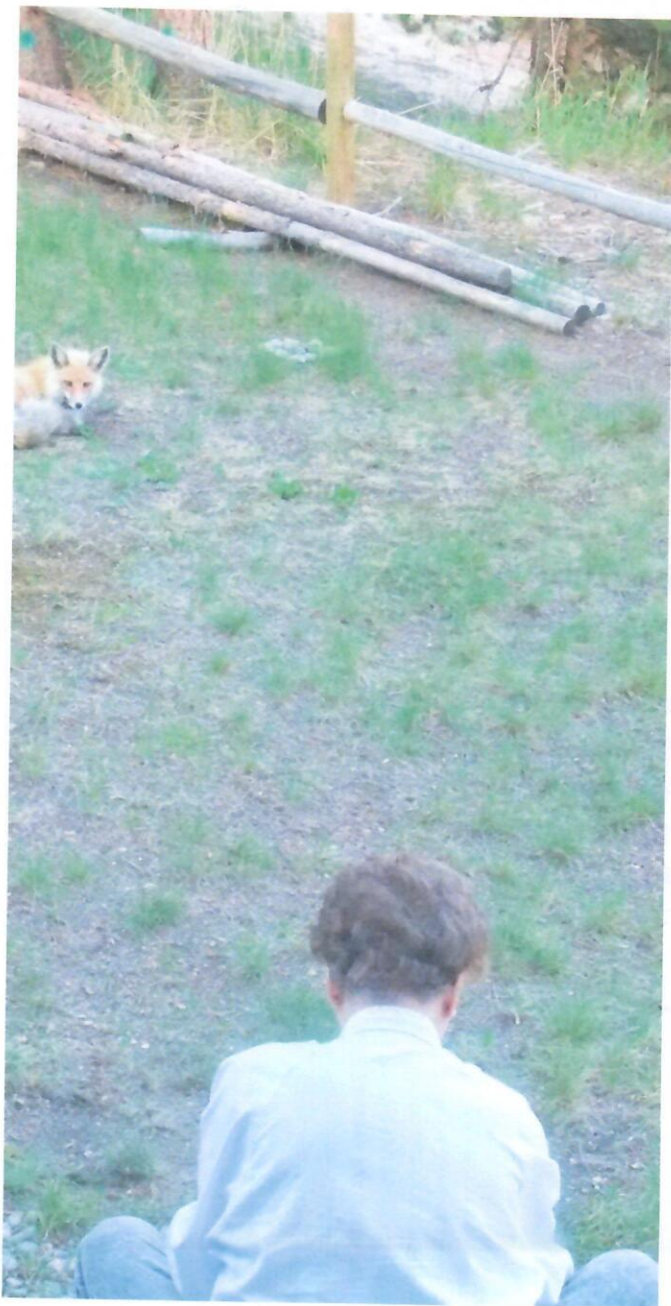
The elk and moose loved to “steal” the nectarine juices she left in bottles from trees for migratory birds. Mothers taught their young, and they returned for a treat as adults. She named many. As her neighbor, our family loved to catch her with her family, quietly whiling away moments any sunny afternoon.

Upon Bill's sudden death September 2013, Winnie closed the house moved to California. The property changed hands.

But in the months the house was empty, the vixen fox came by afternoons, searching for her friend Winnie. Never any food for her; she seemed to want the affection forever lost to her. She would look at us next door, never enter our property. Mid-afternoons, she'd walk the area outside that back door, regardless of weather. Disappeared each day after we ceased to watch her.

In the spring the following year, she was gone too. Both never forgotten.

Left .. Faithful vixen fox and Winnie.





Below ... Mother Moose and calf at Winnie's Back Door.







Above ...Faithful vigil

Below .. Brown Bear visits Columbine Lake

