



The Buck Snort Saloon

26 June 2017 by Harry Zirkelbach
Stars and Sun Date 34782

Nostalgia. Reaching back in time. The way it was. Yesterday. I remember.

I ask you to accompany me on a journey to a past long ago,
yet, a time you and I can still touch and enjoy.

You'll need a car that's dependable. Leave Windsor Gardens, drive west to Havana, Colorado 30, head south, loop west, becomes US 285. Keep driving, always west, leave the sky line into the upper foot hills, until the community of Pine Junction. Leave, turn left. slip gently down Buffalo Creek Road, constant turns, then the first town, Pine itself. Left at the Antique Store. You are on S 4th Street, in Pine, Colorado.

Now pay no attention to the store and its antiques, some you'll recognize you are still using. Drive two short ancient blocks, turn right. Here you're on that final leg, South Elk Creek Road, the very slip you need to reach our destination. As you



move, the Stream of that name will be your companion.

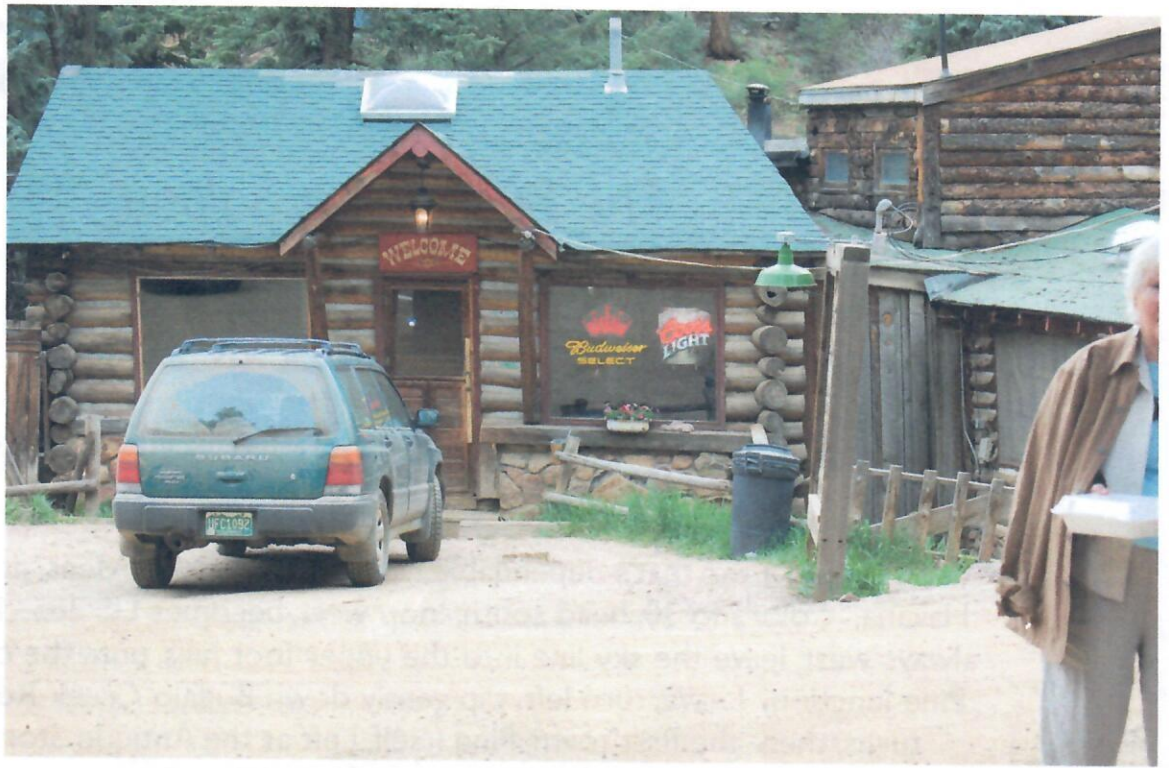
Be patient. Drive carefully. Enjoy the steep climb, past trees and the occasional

Sandstone rocks lining either side of the meander, some of these size of a Denver city block.

Most of the time the creek will be on your left; some moments in run-off months, lapping at your vehicle.

Then in 60 years,

more or less, you will be back to the mid 20th Century, see the mountain west country, few hints of civilization. Then, that dip in the road where, at the bottom, left,



faded, broken signs confirming you have found the Buck Snort Saloon, near Sphinx Park, Colorado. Popular on summer week-ends, parking a challenge, but stay away from blocking the private roads, or South Elk Creek Road itself.

By now you should be thirsty, even hungry. And you have the right water-hole.

Reservations are not taken at the Buck Snort. So ask for inside or back porch seating. There is no menu. Management will tell you what the cook found in his refrig today.

Thankfully they do keep a choice list of generous thirst quenchers, in Fiftys, and 12





ounce
bottles and
cans. Mixed
drinks, an
oddity, can
be ordered.
Summer, its a
treat to be
seated
outside, again
overlooking
the Creek,
the trees and
rocks, and
other
residents of

this 19th Century community.

Wb ((On the deck outside the Saloon, on the right, is a wooden wall made by a Navy Seal Team who partied here once, wanted to be remembered.

Management encourages this. For on anything wood, inside or outside, it is likely that some visitor used a penknife, inscribed something for others to read. Look around and you'll find that Tom loved Mary, Jane, Phyllis, Ursula, Margie, and Frank. Tom, some kind of a guy.))

The tables are as comfortable a wood is anywhere, without



padding which would only need cleaning anyway.

The ceilings are irregular (so's the floor inside) but the ceiling is also adorned by the former customers. There must be 1,000 US dollar bills pinned, nailed, glued to the ceiling, each signed by from three to twelve individuals. A remnant of WWII South Pacific front areas, where mostly men

drank between battles, used their script to be remembered, everyone in the group adding a name without nostalgia.



No ((Have one drink too many today, then get out a dollar bill, pass it around have your group add their names, or if shy, use an interesting alias. I don't know if Marilyn Monroe ever came here, but Marilyn Monroe did sign a few of these Short-Snorters, their formal Marine name.))

I almost forgot to mention. The burgers, mainstay, are delicious; possible additions astounding. Hot sauces are fresh and hot; apply reasonably. Recalll mention of the name inscribing; the table tops are thoroughly gouged with names, initials, signs of enduring love. Table tops also tend to lean, same direction as the floor of the same area. And Management has kept this a cash only, first class eating establishment. Singing, tipping, laughter, rowdiness, drinking is encouraged, and in our visits, neither management of we were disappointed at each farewell.

Because unlike those GI's in the Pacific, we expect to return, rekindle the memories and adventure in this bit of Colorado shortly after 1945.

