

Dear Friends of Alice and Helen Dickerson:

The memorial is finished. We selected a stone that was shaped like a mountain range and had it engraved. It is in a grove of aspen and spruce at the north end of the garden. We have enclosed a picture but hope you will have the opportunity to visit. The old cabin had to be torn down since it was on Forest Service land so we had to put the monument across the road.

We thank all of you who contributed and hope you like what we did with them.

Sincerely,

*Nancy Oyster &
Pat Bartling*

Recently, friends of Alice and Helen Dickerson placed a memorial on the Dickerson Homestead where the old sawmill once stood. The cabin where the Dickerson girls lived had to be torn down since it was on land leased from the Forest Service. Sam and Cora's cabin and the barn remain up the road and around the curve. The concession stand, The Golden Eagle, is still across the road from where the cabin once stood.

Helen died in April, 1992. Alice continued to live in the old homestead until shortly before her death, September 22, 1997.

Contributions to a memorial fund after Alice died were used to purchase the rock for the monument and have it engraved and delivered. The monument was engraved at Fort Collins Monument and Stone. The stone is shaped like the mountains the girls so loved and is engraved with an elk and hummingbird. Its backdrop is a grove of Aspen and Spruce and, of course, the Mummy Range. Let it serve as a remembrance of two friends and their lives as pioneer women.

In 1913 Sam and Cora Dickerson homesteaded a small acreage up the Buckhorn Canyon. They were accompanied by their sons Earl and Allen, Earl's wife Stella and Earl and Stella's daughters, Alice and Helen. The first summer and fall all seven lived in a small abandoned log cabin with a leaky sod roof. They spent the summer building a good cellar to store food and cleared the land for a garden. It took another 5 years to build fences, houses and get the garden to produce enough to sustain them. The second house that was built was where Alice and Helen lived together for 80 years.

To visit the sisters was like taking a step back in time. Cooking was done on a wood-burning cook stove that produced the most wonderful bread. Water was heated in coils in the stove and stored in a tank with shiny spots at hip and shoulder level where the girls rubbed against it to get warm. There was no electricity and few of the amenities that modern families expect. But there was a peace and warmth and love that drew friends and strangers into its fold. Nature was their TV. An abundance of birds and Abert squirrels visited the feeders daily. Elk, coyotes, and mountain lion were not uncommon sights.

Over the years Alice and Helen operated a sawmill, cut their own wood, tended the garden and practiced the art of survival during unforgiving winters. Alice ran a 15-mile trapline, Helen tended the cows and livestock. For ten years before WW II Alice had a mail route in the Poudre Canyon and the Buckhorn. Helen had a concession stand called the "Golden Eagle" where they sold their crafts and Helen's pine needle baskets.