

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-012

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO NAMING BETH PAULSON TO THE HONORARY POST OF POET LAUREATE OF OURAY COUNTY

WHEREAS, Ouray County has previously adopted Resolution 2018-038 Establishing a Honorary Poet Laureate Position and Establishing a Nomination Review Committee; and,

WHEREAS, a public notice was solicited requesting Poet Laureate nominations on February 7, 2019 in the Ouray County Plaindealer; and,

WHEREAS, Beth Paulson has lived in Ouray County for many decades and is active in the Open Bard Poetry Series, as well as other local and regional poetry groups; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Paulson is an inspiring performer of her poetry and has appeared on stage many times in Ouray County and the state; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Paulson has been recommend for this honor by the Ouray County Performing Arts Guild and by Ouray County residents; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OURAY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that Beth Paulson is appointed as the Poet Laureate of Ouray County, Colorado for a two-year term to expire on April 1, 2021, and her responsibilities shall be to promote the literary arts in Ouray County.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 23rd DAY OF APRIL, 2019.

Voting for: Commissioners Peters, Tisdal + Batchelder

Voting against: None

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO



[Signature] John E. Peters, Chair

[Signature] Ben Tisdal, Vice-Chair

[Signature] Don Batchelder, Commissioner

[Signature] Michelle Nauer, Clerk and Recorder
By: Hannah Hollenbeck, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Finding Home

I found home in a county gold and silver made
within steep cliffs that stop a narrow valley in its tracks,
boot or burro. A place where winter snows once buried
mine trails and pastures, new-built cabins to their windows,
that saw blue skies on short days, long nights by wood stoves.

I came home to a place ranchers settled, wide valley
fed by a river they could grow food and plenty
to sell, fine land to make hay, graze dairy cows,
high pastures to run white-faced cattle in summer.

Hardly anyone today remembers the depot that burned
but they know trains changed two towns, brought in
eastern investors, young men from Italy, Cornwall,
to pry ore from hard rock, muck, load and haul
for good wages to spend, send home, stake a future.

Engine to roundhouse to section house, Ridgway men
could work their whole lives in the yard or on the line,
days filled with steam hiss, rail clang, coal smoke and ash,
could spend a Saturday night at the dance hall in Portland,
earn enough money to build homes, raise families.

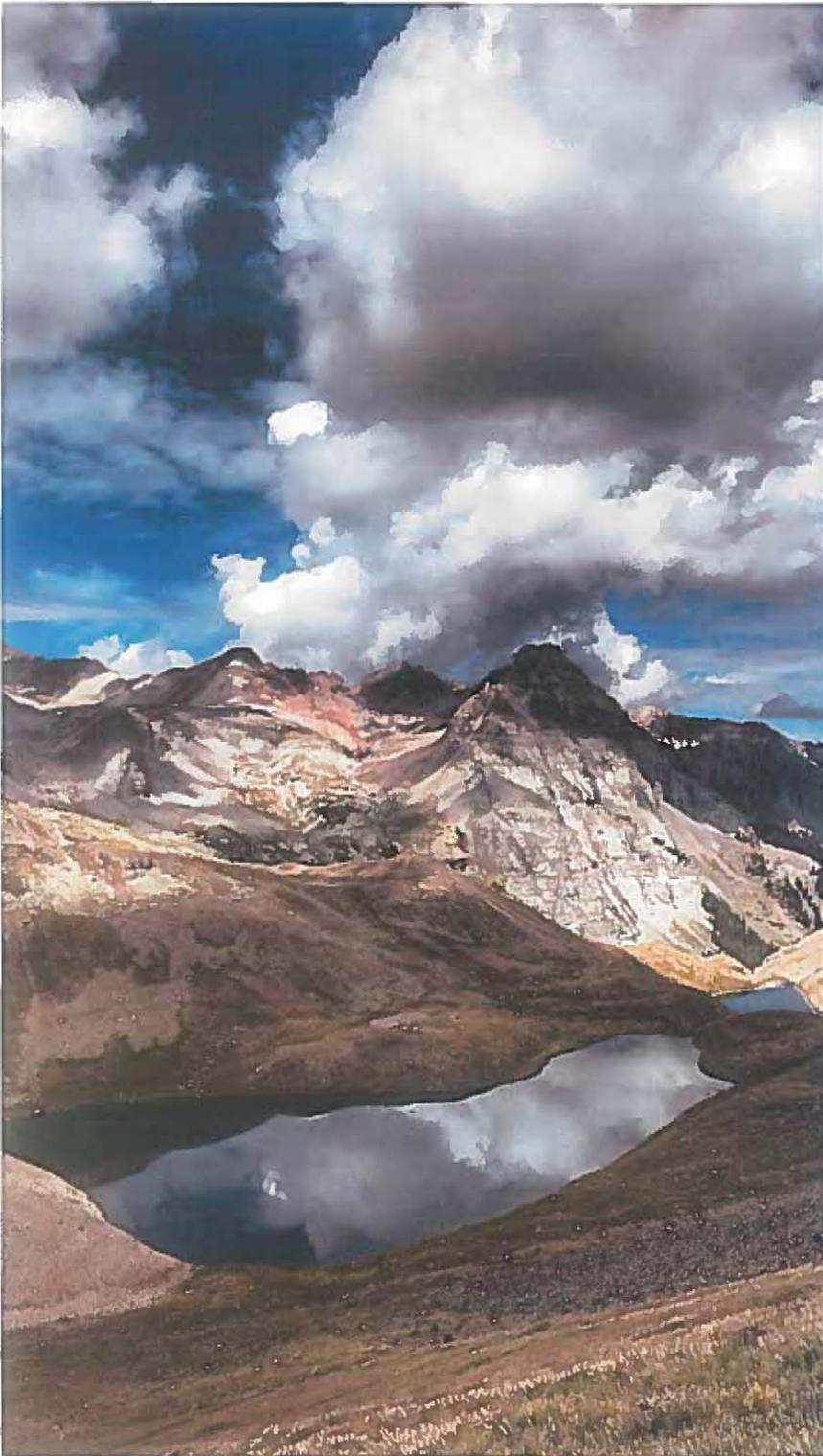
On main streets noisy with freighters' wagons,
mule trains, and cattle drives, frame and brick buildings
grew into stores, saloons, even an opera house and
hotels to serve prosperous and curious travelers,
some standing yet in their ornate, painted glory.

Though silent now the hammers, drills, stamp mills
up where aspen and fir grow thick, hikers find
old boarding houses, shops, rusted stoves and boilers,
skiers find quiet air, only imagine that echoing clamor.

Through boom and bust, closures and re-openings
of the Revenue, Camp Bird, and Idarado,
Ouray endured. When the last cattle train left
and a reservoir threatened to erase the town,
Ridgway, too, endured and thrived. *Tourist gold*
became currency with better roads, war surplus jeeps,
and a million dollar highway over Red Mountain.

I dared driving that pass one early summer day, taken with
a dandelion field in bloom, young buck by the roadside.
That was the year I fell in love with a cascading waterfall
and a river that sang to me of melting snows, pasqueflowers
along its banks. With Abram's mountain in my sites
and the Cimarrons bathed in alpenglow, I, too, found
home among open-hearted people who sketched me in.

Beth Paulson
4/23/19



OURAY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY
APPOINTS

BETH PAULSON

AS OURAY COUNTY POET LAUREATE

FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ART OF POETRY AND COMMITMENT TO THE
ADVANCEMENT OF POETRY IN OURAY COUNTY.

2019—2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John E. Peters".

JOHN E. PETERS, CHAIR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ben Tisdell".

BEN TISDELL, VICE CHAIR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Don Batchelder".

DON BATCHELDER, MEMBER

