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Press Release September, 2005 For Immediate Release:

Strange But True, Colorado is Weird Tales of the Wild West

Author John Hafnor has released a collection of Colorado's most unusual and forgotten historical tales in *Strange But True, Colorado*. The book is the culmination of four years of research into the Centennial State's "attic" of zany events.

The book is 144 pages in length, and includes 52 vignettes each paired with an original pen & ink drawing by noted western artist Dale Crawford. A final chapter contains dozens of extremely short but entertaining "sound bites" of history, and is appropriately titled "44 Tales Too Good to Leave Out."

Strange But True, Colorado is based on the premise, first advanced by Lord Byron, that the truth is stranger than any fictionalization. In the process, Hafnor's research explodes certain long-standing myths such as the one about Hitler owning a Colorado ranch.

The book is published by Lone Pine Productions, Fort Collins, CO, and is available statewide at bookstores, or at the website www.strangecolorado.com, where one can view excerpts from the book as well as unpublished tales.

Here are examples of what readers will find in *Strange But True, Colorado*:

[Sample thumbnail story] In 1880, a certain pioneer crossed the mighty San Juan Mountains of Colorado with a sheet iron stove strapped to his back. The plan was to reach Durango and start a restaurant to nourish hungry prospectors. His name was John Elitch, and his restaurant was soon a success. He later returned to Denver to start the famous Elitch Gardens restaurant and amusement park.

[Sample thumbnail story] In 1924, Colorado witnessed the infiltration of both major parties by the Ku Klux Klan. In that year's general elections, avowed Klan members were installed as the state's governor, lieutenant governor, U.S. senator, secretary of state, attorney general, and state supreme court justice. Imperial Wizard Hiram Evans and the Grand Dragons of several states arrived at Denver's Union Station. A parade of motorcars flanked by Denver police officers brought the "dignitaries" through downtown to the Brown Palace for festivities.

[Sample thumbnail story] The Wild West's most heroic defense against the odds wasn't by a familiar white figure such as Wild Bill Hickok, Wyatt Earp, or Buffalo Bill. This all-but-forgotten deputy sheriff once single-handedly withstood a siege by 80 heavily armed assailants, managing to dodge 4,000 rounds of ammunition aimed towards his position in a tiny adobe hut. His name and full story are revealed at www.strangecolorado.com.

For more information on the *Strange But True, Colorado* or other news from Lone Pine Productions, contact author John Hafnor 970-443-5211 or jhafnor@aol.com

