**A Brief History of the Cave**

**Class of 1968 70th Birthday Celebration**

**September 12, 2020**

The Cave is located near West Belleview and C470. It is owned by a Homeowner Association and is sometimes made available for events. This location, like our state, has an interesting history. Long before the European settlers went west, Ute, Arapahoe, Cheyenne, and other nations roamed the mountains and plains of Colorado. Although a lot of the evidence of their existence has been destroyed or lost, some sites still remain. One such place is the Cave.

Chief Colorow (meaning the color red) was born to the Comanche nation in the early 1800s but was kidnapped by Muache Utes as a boy. As a young man, his new family began migrating from northern New Mexico up to northern Colorado, where he later married three sisters. After marrying, he became a prominent Ute leader and had 13 children. He led his people to hunt and camp in the west Denver area between present-day Morrison and Golden along the Dakota Hogback ridge. Here is where the Cave is found. The Utes believed the springs nearby had healing powers and it made an ideal spot to winter, as well as hide out when necessary.

The area is a slice of beauty and peace. With the surrounding mountains, meadows, and creeks, it’s no wonder Chief Colorow had such an affinity for this spot. With the cave open to the sky and its warm protecting sandstone walls, it is easy to understand why Chief Colorow would have sought solace in the cave during hard times in order to reflect.



