

University of Northern Colorado

Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC

Mesa Verde National Park

Colorado National Parks

July 2024

Welcome to Politically Correct County

Aspen Daily News

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digscholarship.unco.edu/meve>

[<Back to search
result list](#)

**Aspen Daily News, Volume 18, Number 101, November 20, 1995  — Welcome To Politically Correct
County [ARTICLE+ILLUSTRATION]**

Welcome To Politically Correct County

T

here's been a great deal of
debate these past few weeks
about whether or not Pitkin

County should change its name.

Here's a little background: Long before you and I settled in Aspen, the land was inhabited by the Ute Indians, who were the first people to occupy Colorado (unless you count the Anasazi, who built Mesa Verde, but inexplicably left nearly 800 years ago.)

The Utes called the area "the Shining Mountains," and spent most of their time hunting game in the summer, and trying not to freeze to death in the winter.

Inevitably, the White Man showed up and forced the Utes to sign a bunch of treaties, which the White Man then ignored, opting instead to "civilize" the Utes by teaching them to settle down on farms and live like white people.

The White Man profoundly misunderstood the Indian hunter-warrior way of life. Eventually the "civilization" plan failed and things got ugly - culminating with a deadly attack by a small group of really angry Utes on a force of soldiers at Milk Creek. After the attack the Utes were branded as criminals and were subsequently "removed" from the area.

The guy who spearheaded the "removal" effort was Governor Frederick W. Pitkin - our county's namesake.

Pitkin disliked the Utes immensely, because they always seemed to be in the way whenever he tried to lay down rail lines or build new cities. He also thought that the Utes hated trees:

"There is an organized effort on the part of Indians to destroy the timber of Colorado. These savages should be removed," he once wrote to the Secretary of the Interior.

And boy, did he remove them - in the severest sort of way.

So here we are, over 100 years later, and some people feel it's time to right a wrong.

Aspen resident Nahum Amiran is a leading proponent of changing the county's name. In a recent Aspen Times report he referred to Governor Pitkin as "a butcher."

I read that piece and had a few ideas:

First off, there's nothing wrong with having our county named after a butcher, but it's simply the **WRONG** butcher.

How about "Sam" county? Named, of course, after Sam the Butcher, Alice's boyfriend on the Brady Bunch.

For those of you - like our stupid editor-of-the-week Greg Trinker - who don't know much about Sam, I've put together a list of Sam's major Brady Bunch accomplishments, which should prove unequivocally that our county should be renamed in

that our county should be re-named in his honor.

Sam the Butcher's Major Brady Bunch Accomplishments:

- 1) He was always there for Alice whenever she wanted some fresh rump roast.
- 2) Used to buy beer for Greg and Peter when they were too young to legally purchase it on their own.
- 3) They were actually HIS cigarettes that Mrs. Brady found in Greg's jacket, yet he let Greg take the rap to teach him a lesson about life's unfairness.
- 4) Successfully hid in Jan's sleeping bag during the big slumber party.
- 5) Smacked Bobby upside the head after Bobby called Cindy a "stinker."
- 6) Rarely killed Ute Indians on the show.

I spoke with Nahum Amiran yesterday and pitched him my "Sam" idea. He didn't like it.

In fact, I don't think he liked *me* either.

He couldn't fathom how I could possibly find any humor in the systematic elimination of an entire race of people.

The thing that Amiran doesn't understand is that **I don't find that humorous at all.** What I find funny is that from sea to shining sea, in every town, village and city in America, there is something of note that is named after a bastard (we all know somebody who went to Nixon High, don't we?)

The simple fact of the matter is our nation has a history of doing whatever it takes to get what we want - at any cost - and, in most cases, this is not considered tyrannical, but rather heroic.

So if we as a people decide we're going to right all the wrongs by changing the names of places and things named after bastards, we better be prepared for the biggest damned undertaking in the history of politically-correctism.

Personally, I think my time can be better spent trying to focus on wrongs that are happening right now, so that 100 years from now my ancestors don't wind up living in Sharper Image County.



Dan Dunn
Twisted