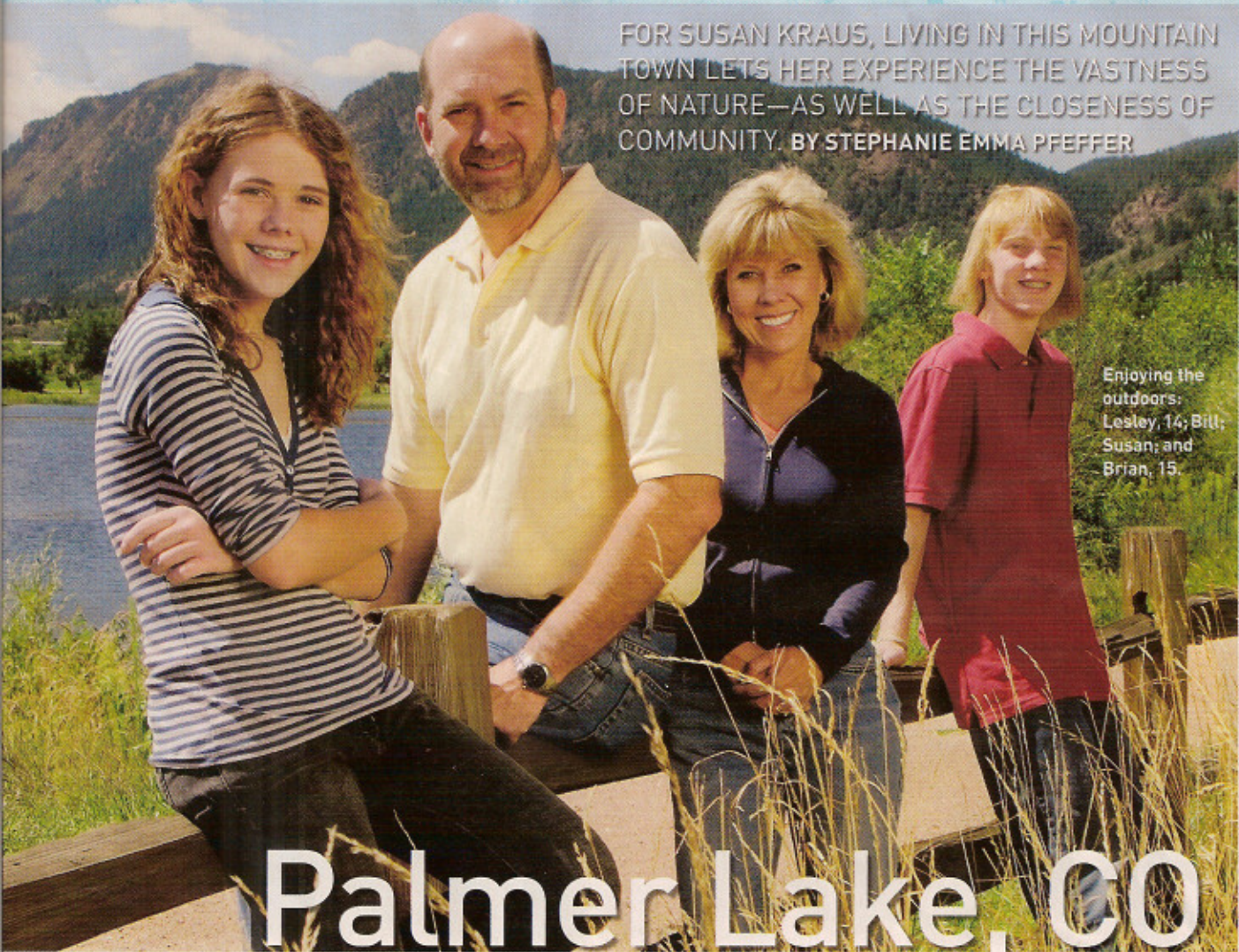


FOR SUSAN KRAUS, LIVING IN THIS MOUNTAIN TOWN LETS HER EXPERIENCE THE VASTNESS OF NATURE—AS WELL AS THE CLOSENESS OF COMMUNITY. BY STEPHANIE EMMA PFEFFER



Enjoying the outdoors: Lesley, 14; Bill, Susan; and Brian, 15.

Palmer Lake, CO

POPULATION
2,400

SMALL WONDER One of three towns that make up the TriLakes area, our district is an intimate place where you always run into

people you know, whether at the post office or the grocery store.

GET TOGETHER Our library sponsors family events like the Mothers and Daughters' Tea Party. This year Lesley and I dressed up in Victorian clothes. Volunteers from the high school served us cucumber sandwiches, strawberries and lemonade.

LOCAL TRADITION Hundreds of people participate in December's Yule Log Hunt, when a huge log is hidden in the mountains. After it's found, it's set aflame in front of Town Hall.

TEAM WORK The lake is our pride and joy, so when it started to dry up about six years ago, the community rallied to contribute

to the "Awake the Lake" campaign. We raised money to pump well water into the lake, but, unfortunately, water levels have started receding again.

BEST BET FOR VISITORS Family and friends love the 30-minute hike through the aspen trees to Palmer Lake's reservoir. When Lesley was in the fifth grade, her class went there on a field trip to take samples of the water and learn about what kinds of bugs and other organisms live in the reservoir.

LET IT SNOW Almost every other weekend in the winter, Bill and Brian go snowboarding at Breckenridge, Vail or Winter Park—they're all less than an hour away. Since Brian was 8, he has loved the frequent day trips and occasional overnights.

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT During the holiday season, the spectacular 500-foot-long Palmer Lake Christmas Star atop Sundance Mountain can be spotted from miles away. The lighting ceremony takes place the Saturday after Thanksgiving; everyone gathers at the fire station and sings "Silent Night." ●

Think your town is unique? Let us know why we should profile it—and your family—in an upcoming issue. Send an e-mail and family photo to hometown@familycircle.com.