

## "Teas, Bees & the Ghost of Louise"

One of my favorite places in Denver to snoop around is The Brown Palace Hotel. Built in 1892, The Brown Palace is well-known for its longstanding tradition of "High Tea" with Devonshire cream shipped directly from England. Fewer people know, that on the hotel's rooftop high above 17th and Broadway in Denver's Downtown, the Brown Palace has its own Bee Colony producing fresh honey for Tea guests.

Other than the bees, the hotel's most interesting resident is the ghost of Mrs. Crawford Hill. Louise Sneed Hill, a most elite of Denver socialites, kept a posh apartment in Room 904 of the Brown Palace from 1940-1955. Later, when the hotel began to offer history tours, the story of Louise's life and heartbreak over a lost love were told to the visitors. The switchboard suddenly began to receive calls from room 904... at the time, the room was undergoing renovation and had no furnishings, lights, carpet... or telephone lines. It was, no doubt, Louise calling to complain about having her dirty laundry aired in public, guarding her title as Queen of Denver elite, even from the grave. Before long, the story was eliminated from the tour and the telephone calls from room 904 stopped coming.