

THE HISTORIC STRATER HOTEL PRESENTS
ROOM 422:
THE HAHL FAMILY

Welcome to the Hahl Room (pronounced “Hale”)

The Hahl family has been part of the Strater Hotel legacy since 1979, when Laurie Hahl married Rod Barker. Two years earlier, while attending Fort Lewis College, Laurie stepped into the grand red-brick hotel on Main Avenue in Durango for a job interview. Having grown up in Littleton, the Strater was entirely new to her. Little did she know she would be interviewed for a restaurant server position by her future husband — the son of the hotel’s owner.

Laurie’s career at the Strater spanned 34 years and included roles in the restaurant, housekeeping, theater box office, and costume room. She also created window displays and shadowboxes throughout the hotel and decorated the lobby and banquet rooms each Christmas, helping shape the warm, historic charm guests continue to enjoy.

In 1998, Durango drew in more of the Hahl family when Laurie’s parents, June and Leonard Hahl, moved from Littleton to be closer to their daughter and her growing family. Both found a deep sense of community through the Strater’s history and special events.

Leonard embraced the early mornings as Breakfast Steward in the Mahogany Grille, preparing coffee and arranging the dining room for guests and the weekly morning guy chat group that was affectionately called “Coffee Club.”



Leonard and June Hahl



June, Tom, Leonard and Jessica Hahl



June and Tom Hahl, Laurie (Hahl) Barker and Leonard Hahl

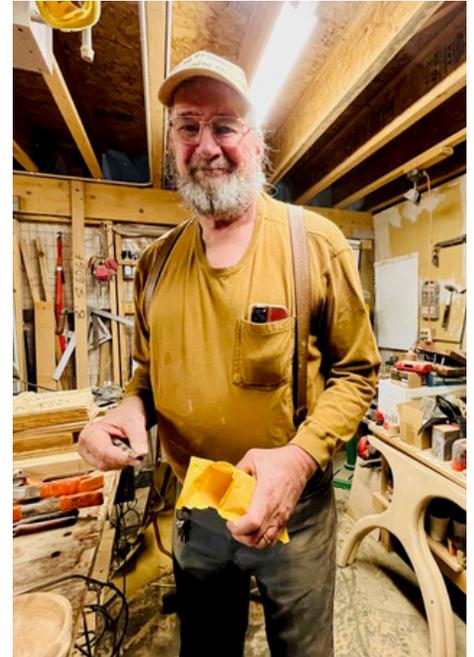




June, Leonard and Laurie (Hahl) Barker



Jessica Hahl



Tom Hahl

June, a devoted lover of history with a gift for conversation, found her niche in hospitality as well. A dedicated tea drinker, she approached management with the idea of creating a High Tea experience in the Office Spiritorium. Dressed in period costume, she delighted guests with elegance, warmth, and wit while serving tea and finger sandwiches.

June and Leonard also enjoyed participating in the Durango Heritage Celebration, founded in 2009 and held at the Strater. Fashion shows, Victorian balls, and festive dress-up events offered the perfect excuse to parade through the hotel in elegant Victorian attire.

In 2003, Laurie's niece, Jessica Hahl, arrived in Durango to attend Fort Lewis College. She, too, became part of the Strater family — first working in housekeeping and later spending more than a decade at the front desk.

Laurie's brother, Tom Hahl — Jessica's father — followed in 2006. A lifelong construction professional, Tom had little experience with the kind of fine woodwork found throughout the Strater. Rod recognized his natural talent and paired him with master craftsman Charlie Schumacher. Under Charlie's watchful (and sometimes exacting) guidance, Tom honed his skills and earned the rare distinction of becoming his apprentice.

Today, thanks to that mentorship, Tom carries on the specialized craftsmanship required to restore the Strater's antique walnut furniture and woodwork. His artistry can be seen in the king-size beds in several guest rooms and the magnificent chairs in the Office Spiritorium. His wood shop remains on Strater property, where he continues to preserve the hotel's historic character.

As time marches on, the Hahl family's chapter at the Strater has evolved. Leonard and June have passed on. Jessica has married and moved out of state. Rod and Laurie are no longer owners following the hotel's sale in 2021. Yet Tom remains — working in semi-retirement, carefully restoring treasured pieces to ensure many more years of enjoyment in this remarkable workplace and living museum.

And for those fortunate locals who have experienced a ***“Tom Tour,”*** his stories add even more color and character to the storied halls of the Strater.

