

# No Fooling

## The True Tale Banana Belt Liquors' Name

I'm not good at discipline. One beer means two. I hit the snooze three times. That sort of thing. My New Year's resolutions are usually compost in time to nourish Spring flowers. But this year's is poised to bloom with them instead, since it's April 1st and I'm just getting around to it now. It's about honesty.

I've told you tales, allowed myself to speculate. Over the past months I've wrote, variously, that Banana Belt's name derived from spilled wagon trains and electromagnetic phenomena, stray thanksgiving floats, Bigfoot sightings, and botched FBI arrests, among others. Now, I'm going to get my facts straight. Happy April Fool's Day, I'm ready to come clean.

Founders Michael and Paula Harper named the store after our temperate climate, nicknamed the 'Banana Belt' for the warm air that carries up the pass, making Woodland Park so pleasant all year round. They wanted their customers to not lose sight of shorts and tee shirt weather, even in winter months. Owner, Carla Clausen and her charming staff uphold that mission today. Long live summer! Viva Banana Belt!

There I said it, no explosions or marching bands, just the honest truth. I feel good. Maybe tomorrow I won't hit the snooze alarm. Maybe. Think I will have that second beer, though. Right now, in fact. Then I'll give you the take away.

So here's the takeaway. I love stories. Truth often lacks the pomp and pyrotechny of the b.s. we dream up in our heads. (Except when Easter really falls on April Fools Day, and kids are scared to open their eggs.) But in the end they're just stories.

And the truth is, if you live in Woodland Park, you have neighbors who care about you. Enough to make sure you get your hands on an ice cold beer, even when the pass is blocked by a foot of snow. Truth is you live in a community with enough imagination to hold snow-capped mountains and swaying palms in their head at the same time. Truth is your in a place so special that you get that margaritas and Palm trees feeling even when fastening skis on your feet and chains on your truck tires. Truth is you can step out your front door on a brisk day and look as far as you can see to the north and south and know there are shivering people there that envy you. Truth is, even if it does get cold, there's a drink waiting.

Happy Easter/ April Fools Day.