Foolish Frog Enterprises is the name of the storytelling enterprise of Mitch Pingel. Mitch has been singing and telling stories for more than 30 years to audiences ranging in age from preschool to folks well able to get good use from their senior citizen discounts.

His style is entertaining and educational. With a presentation full of information and humor, everyone is guaranteed to have a great time.

"Special thanks to you for the three programs you presented to Fitzmorris Elementary School. Not only were the children delighted, but the faculty was pleased that you entertained and taught! It takes skill, a thorough knowledge of children's interests and a genuine love of teaching to present three different yet highly successful programs! In these times of "tight financial times" it's especially gratifying to be able to host a program that's both entertaining and educational!"

Dorothy J. Jochim, Principal

"FOOLISH FROG:
Ballads and Stories from
Mitch Pingel"
MITCH IS A SPELLBINDER!

These are the words used by a principal to describe Mitch's performance. MITCH PINGEL, a teacher retired from the Boulder Valley School District with 30 years experience, will present programs of music and storytelling for your school, church, adult or other group. The programs consist of an enjoyable blend of story-songs, ballads, and songs that are just plain fun. Audience participation is elicited and encouraged.

THE INSTRUMENTS

MITCH has been playing some musical instrument since he was six, although not continuously. He has been singing and telling stories with the autoharp and banjo since 1973. Although his involvement with the hammered dulcimer only dates to 1980, he was the Colorado State Hammered Dulcimer Champion in 1986.

THE SINGING

He developed his singing style and storytelling techniques during his 30 years as a classroom teacher in Kindergarten, second grade and fourth grade. Working extensively with middle school and high school students as a youth group advisor with his church has also honed these skills. The songs and stories have been collected and embellished during this time. New material is always being added to his repertoire.

EXPERIENCE

MITCH has performed in a wide variety of situations. He has given programs for many schools throughout Colorado. MITCH was a featured presenter at regional International Reading Association conferences in 1980 and 1982. He has given presentations at several Storytelling Conferences at the local, state, and national levels.

"Mitch holds a group of sixth grade students spellbound for an hour and a half and has them wishing for more. His expertise with many and varied instruments is amazing. He has a knack for 'spinning a yarn' and making students feel and experience what he is saying. This gentleman has many years of experience working with students from all age groups. Teacher, Youth Group Advisor, Musician, Master of Song, are only a few of the titles Mitch can have following his name. The best part is that with all of this he is very easy to work with, dependable, and a nice person."

Jim Jackson, Former Principal, Mount Evans Outdoor Lab School, Jefferson County Schools

AVAILABLE PROGRAMS

OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

This program has been developed with the needs of the evening program for residential outdoor education in mind. A mix of songs, ballads, and stories chosen specifically to fit into the scope and surroundings involved in outdoor ed.

WESTWARD HO!

A look at the westward movement through the songs of cowboys and pioneers and the stories and ballads of the railroads and lumber camps.

SHIP AHOY!

A tour of the seafaring world through the songs and fantasies of sailors, ships, and fish.

GIT ALONG LITTLE DOGGIES

A series of old time cowboy songs that document the trials, tribulations and joys of the cowboy's life on the plains, and the traditions that make the American cowboy.

BALLADS

A Language Arts experience which looks at storytelling using songs throughout history and utilizes and develops the auditory memory of the audience.

SONGS OF AMERICA

This is a look at the songs that have played a part in making America what it is today. The program will examine many of the songs that have played a part in the development of our pride and spirit, their history and background.

KID SONGS

Especially for primary level children, KID SONGS involves the students in music appreciation and audience participation songs that are just plain fun.

THE OLIO!

My favorite! A little bit of everything. Musical history, ballads, fun songs, and stories. A good time will be had by all.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mitch Pingel
275 Main St
Broomfield CO 80020
Phone: 303-469-9417    Fax: 303-469-2454
e-mail: mitch@foolishfrog.com

"Mitch is one of the most talented and entertaining performers we've had in our school. Adults and children alike appreciate and greatly enjoy his many talents. After attending one of his programs, everyone leaves a bit happier."

Woodrow Spriggs, Principal

"Mitch is a spellbinder! The program was different for each grade level, specially tailored to the interests of each age group. He had the children and teachers (and the principal) on the edge of their seats throughout the performance. It is a pleasure to host a person who combines language and music development with sheer entertainment so successfully."

Dr. Bill Swartsfager, Principal

COSTS

Rates for assemblies are as follows:

OUTDOOR LAB PROGRAMS

One program . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .