Many years ago (the exact date is lost to recent antiquity) when the stars were aligned and the constellations were fixed in the heavens so that Orion’s Belt pointed directly to the summit of Ute Pass, a wise man declared that Divide was not just in the center of Colorado, it was the “Center of the Known Universe.”

Years have come and gone since then, and about the only time one sees that phrase in these days is when it is used by the Divide Chamber of Commerce (it’s their official, copyrighted logo). But things are about to change.

For nearly a decade the Divide Chamber has nursed a project to place an appropriate welcome sign along U.S. Highway 24 to alert both travelers and locals alike that they are approaching what many consider a cosmic spot on the face of the earth, unlike any other. Before the highway was widened to four lanes, there used to be a smaller welcome-to-Divide sign in the field near the entrance to Meadow Park. But that sign disappeared with the road work.

A couple of years ago, at the Chamber’s prompting, the state did post one of their green road signs marking the westbound approach to Divide. But according to many, that sign is not enough. Until the last few years, the Chamber’s sign project has lingered. But time, effort, and good people have been able keep the project alive, doing things that others thought impractical; now the sign project is about to become a reality.

The board of directors of the Divide Chamber of Commerce, in order to more fully promote the community of Divide, is about to accomplish what has been a dream for many years — the erection of a worthy sign of welcome and a monument for the Midland Depot at Divide, as well. The planning process has been long, and seemingly endless, but permissions from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Teller County Planning Department have been secured. Not long ago, the Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution approving the project.

Scheduled to be in place this spring, the sign will be large and located at the northeast corner of the depot property just east of Weaverville Road. It will tower over the boundary fence along the highway on the south, a two-sided, angled affair with the silhouette of a train carved in iron at its apex.

While the sign itself will not have the chamber logo on it, below the sign will be space to hang the chamber banner or other banners and post announcements. The entire structure will be supported by three 30 foot logs standing majestically skyward to mark the center of the universe as we (we who are “in the know”) know it.

All the elements are coming together. An artistic volunteer with a plasma torch is set to burn out the train silhouette, and a sign maker has begun assembling the words on a field of wood. When these are finished, and when the weather co-operates, a general contractor and several supporting contributors are ready to connect all the parts and make the sign appear as soon as the time is right. It will mark the spot of our existence in the cosmos.

While the aim of Orion’s Belt may be at another place on earth now, perhaps to the Pyramids in Egypt or to the Nazca Lines in Peru, one can still look up in the night sky and see those five bright stars and imagine that at some time in our past the center of that constellation pointed here. Here at Divide. At least, that is the legend.

Note: Funding and some materials for the sign project are made possible through the generous donations of Divide Chamber members, as well as contributions from community individuals, but more help is needed. Interested contributors towards the cost of the sign project may contact the chamber through Lisa Lee at Shipping Plus in Divide (Tel: 719.686.7587), or by contacting the Divide Chamber of Commerce directly (Tel: 719.686-7606,