

September 1, 1993

Cunningham Takes Society Leadership

The O.C.C.H.S. board met May 19th to elect new officers. Orrin Haynes was elected to the board, replacing Pat Patton who moved to North Carolina. Our thanks to Pat for his loyal service.

The board elected Lucille Cunningham as president in response to Joyce Johns' request that she be relieved of the duties she carried out efficiently for four years. Joyce's leadership was an important element in our purchase of a building and other steps toward our history center. Recognition of her skills goes beyond our organization: Ms. Johns was given recognition this summer by the Modern Woodman for her public service.

The board re-elected Jan Knox as vice president, Ralph Conner for one more year as secretary, and John Croff as treasurer.

The responsibilities of the board are growing, and it now meets at least once a month. Committees involving both general and board members are now functioning, aimed particularly at grant-writing and other fund-raising efforts.

Board Gives Architect Go-Ahead for Planning

To speed up remodeling of our history center at 1 S. 24th once funds are accumulated, the board has authorized architect Michael Collins to proceed with the detailed plans that we'll need when we seek bids from contractors.

Work by him and Chuck Runge will go beyond the general plans shown in the May WestWord and supply specifications for mechanical and electrical restoration and standards and materials for other work. The firm will supervise the rehabilitation once it's under way.

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

(With another bumper crop of new members, and with lots to say about some of them, we've devoted all of page 5 to this topic.)

Briefly:

A nice write-up of members Ed and Haning Zhou Hughes in the June 18th issue of the *Pikes Peak Journal*. Ms. Hughes, who has been teaching at Colorado College, conducted a tour to China which took in traditional tourist sights and acquainted Ms. Hughes with changes in her native land. She and Ed returned here in 1990.

Some members are recuperating from months of physical ordeal and hospitalizations, but are much better, thank you. Carl Chilcott was in and out of the hospital for surgery, complicated by Bertie Chilcott's own short seige of illness. Arnold Cunningham also underwent major hospitalization which he's seeing through with help from Jerry. And Bob Gaarder escalated shortness of breath into major medical problems and hospitalization, but he's making steady improvement with Loretta's assistance. Aldine Lipe also underwent serious surgery and hospitalization during the summer months. We trust these, and others we may not be aware of, will make a speedy return to health.

Apologies to Lucille Cunningham for overlooking her Life Membership in O.C.C.H.S. She signed up last Christmas but the secretary lost track of that fact.

We received a thoughtful "gift" from Patsy Hughes as Territory Days got under way. She supplied equipment and hired the manpower to have the grass at our History Center mowed to let us put our best foot forward.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Ed Helmuth Reveals Early Pass's History

What's called the "oldest" pass in Colorado (in terms of use) will be the topic when a new season of meetings begins Sept. 10th. Ed Helmuth of Buena Vista will use slide pictures and maps of "Sangre de Cristo" pass to tell its history.

Passes were vital in rugged Colorado—as important a bit of geography as highway designations are today.

Mr. Helmuth was an engineer-scientist with Marathon Oil for 30 years. He fell in love with Colorado mountains in a 1956 visit and in the '80s he and his wife began cataloging and visiting Colorado passes, learning of their origins and uses. He earned degrees from the University of Colorado, and Bowling Green State University.

Mrs. Gloria Helmuth appeared as Helen Hunt Jackson at our meeting a year ago. The programs are arranged as a special treat by vice president Jan Knox.

First of a series of books on the couple's research is on the way, and Mr. Helmuth has had papers published by the Society of Petroleum Engineers, of which he was a member. He plans to work with federal officials to give recognition to passes not yet officially named.

THANKS, SANDI

Old Colorado City Associates didn't mail a newsletter this month, so joint mailing was impossible. We thank Sandi Hoewisch for use of her bulk mailing permit in distributing this issue. Using her permit explains why the "Vignettes of Old Colorado City" return address appears on the outside of this issue.

Westside Memories: *Turning Back the Clock on Local Events*

Twenty-five Years Ago

September, 1968

Cork and Cleaver restaurant built on south Eighth by Peter Greene and Thomas Flek; E. J. Fait opened a 24-hour service station at Uintah and Interstate 25, besides his station at 30th and Colorado; region's first Arby's was built at 1710 S. 8th.

Cooper Theaters planned 3 new theaters, seating 2,000 to 2,400.

Motorists advised to avoid 21st St. during its reconstruction and paving.

Columbia Addition residents protested planned annexation of its 330 acres. It was south of Garden of the Gods, surrounded by Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs.

Residents north of Pike Elementary organized car pools to get children to Holmes Junior High when expected district buses didn't appear. Board agreed to bus students below the Mesa.

County agreed to study the fate of old courthouse when offices were completed. Okayed plans for a new jail.

Barbers raised haircuts to \$2.25.

Manitou police investigated apparent arson fire on roof of city hall.

A 27-year-old died at 2120 W. Pikes Peak after he went to sleep while smoking and set his sofa on fire.

John Southcotte, 520 N. Spruce, retired after 40 years as a fireman.

Fifty Years Ago

September, 1943

Colorado Springs school enrollment was down about 500, but some elementary teachers had classes of 45.

West Junior's 20th year opened with 425 students. New faculty were secretary Mrs. Jean Nelson; Charlotte Howe, health; Frances Lewis, social science; Preston Johnson, math. Kenneth Chandler became a principal.

Semester presidents at West Junior: Barbara Armstrong, Lucy Burns, Connie Rogers, Dorothy Noble, Merle Bales, Jerry Jones, Bob Light, Bill Saunders.

Cross and Son installed attractive black and white tile on the front of their store at 2417 W. Colorado.

Courtesy Patrol warned motorists not to stop at Camp Carson to observe German prisoners. Prisoners relieved manpower shortages by working in the camp laundry, earning 80¢ an hour.

Martin Adamscheck, Golden Cycle blacksmith, died at 1624 W. Vermijo.

Seventy-five Years Ago

September, 1918

When Springs' police closed in on a Marmon car with 4 persons suspected of a Kansas train robbery, a gunbattle broke out. Chief of detectives and former Colorado City patrolman John W. Rowan, 1311 W. Colorado, died, survived by wife and son Chester. Detective John Riley lost an eye. The bandits escaped eastward. Roscoe Lancaster ("Kansas City Blackie") died in a later shootout bearing 3 bullet wounds from the Springs' shootout.

Springs again abandoned plans for a union railway station. Final arrangements for parallel, one-way trains assigned Santa Fe station to handle north-bound trains, D&RG south-bound.

Colorado Springs high school established compulsory physical training for girls at the Y.W.C.A. gym. Two hours a week would carry 1 credit.

Government offered to take over the Colorado Midland, pay \$100,000, assume losses since first of the year, and compensate for an increased wage scale. Road had virtually ceased to operate because of dispute between owners and the government.

Piggly Wiggly opened at 110 N. Tejon. You selected the groceries yourself in a basket and carried them to a cashier where you paid cash!

City's contagion hospital, next door to Beth El, was ready for business just as the flu epidemic began to look serious. First local citizen to die was Chester Darby, son of the county farm's superintendent, while serving in the navy in Philadelphia.

Colorado College sought ladies to nurse sick students, and it put 15 men getting radio training into quarantine.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Reid, 1331 W. Colorado, were asked for information about their son, Randall, "killed in action." It turned out that another Randall Reid had died.

Hubert Dilts, 1418 W. Colorado, was disabled by a sniper's bullet while perched in the basket of an observation balloon in France. Lawrence Wolfe, 2514 W. Pikes Peak, was slightly wounded; he sent home a "fresh" German helmet. Mr. and Mrs. George Schnell, 830 N. Pine, learned that their wounded son would be hospitalized for 4 or 5 months.

Civil War veteran David Burson, 2722 W. Kiowa, had 3 sons in the army and 4 working in the shipyards.

School Dist. #1 had fewer students, but more attended high school.

One Hundred Years Ago

September, 1893

Mrs. A. B. Deimer (or Diemer), wife of a Midland track-walker and mother of two, shot Midland engineer C. H. Chandler to prevent him from "ruining" her 14-year-old daughter. He remained unconscious and died a day later. Mother's and daughter's explanations conflicted; stories weren't consistent; evidence didn't support some of mother's story. One view: Chandler befriended family, dropped coal off his engine; Mrs. Deimer had alcohol problem and was jealous of attentions Chandler paid to her daughter. OR: During sociable evening, Mrs. Deimer went for liquor, returned to find Chandler in bed with her daughter; he threatened Mrs. Deimer with a knife. At trial, Mrs. Deimer was acquitted.

Colorado City delegates to Populists' convention: John McCoach, John Butler, C.E. Trowbridge, James Brophy.

Red Wiley, Newt Crumley and hack driver Joe Powers were acquitted of charges they robbed an Iowa man of \$500 during a ride from Colorado City to Colorado Springs.

Whitakers shipped printing equipment of Manitou Tourist to Cherokee strip to publish in Indian Territory. E. Chapin Gard of the Pikes Peak Populist moved his press to Cherokee Strip with copies of the Cherokee War Whoop ready to issue. But George Blakely moved a newspaper plant from Denver to publish the Sunday Mirror in Manitou during the winter.

Remarkable musical hit, "After the Ball", swept the country. Gazette noted the prevalence of women's ready-to-wear clothing—unheard of 10 years earlier. Concluded, "If a woman is not a physical monstrosity, there is no reason why she cannot buy everything she wears ready made."

125 Years Ago

September, 1868

First term of Prof. Beattie's Fountain College postponed from Sept. 28th to Oct. 12th. "Corps of competent teachers" would instruct primary students (\$12 a term), preparatory section (\$15), or collegiate (\$20). Board would cost no more than \$4 or \$5 a week. Ladies would receive the same degrees as the men upon graduation.

It was rumored that Denver and Rio Grand planned quick break to get its tracks into Aspen before the Midland.

Settlers were panicked by Indian raids, including fatalities in the Pikes Peak region. (See the detailed report on a later page of this issue.)

Concert, Auction Planned Oct 10th for Laura Belle's!

Although the date is tentative, plans are well under way for an exciting concert and auction to raise money for the Old Colorado City Historical Society's History Center. The event will be held at Laura Belle's, 734 N. 19th.

Proprietor and O.C.C.H.S. member **Nancy Tracy** is lining up local bands to furnish classic-rock and blues music, and member volunteers from O.C.C.H.S. have been contacting businesses for merchandise, services and gift certificates which will be sold to the highest bidder at the auction.

Income from a \$5 cover charge and from successful bids will be given to the History Center building fund, from Laura Belle's, its patrons, and local businesspeople.

Ms. Tracy has run several such concert/auctions which have been successful in raising money for other charitable causes. At this stage, priority lies in getting good items for auction. **John Croff** and **Lee Michels** have been most successful so far in lining up contributions from merchants.

Members are invited to participate in solicitations, and a complete list of solicitors and of donors will appear in a later issue of **WestWord**. If you're willing to help, call **Lance Michels** (632-7548) in the evening, or **Lucille Cunningham** (630-7578; leave a message anytime).

Anyone with something suitable for auction is asked to contact **Lee Michels** (632-7548), or a board member. We'll pick up items and furnish a receipt. Donated auction items will some day repay business people through a history center which will attract and retain visitors to West Side.

We expect to auction more than a hundred items. Laura Belle's is located across 19th St. from Uintah Gardens center.

Clear Purpose, Beautiful Weather, Face Painting Make 1993's Territory Days Our Most Successful

Members on duty during Territory Days at the Garvin Cabin in Bancroft Park were quite conscious of the need for money for rehabilitation of our History Center, which no doubt added urgency to their appeals. Weather and turnout were good, and volunteers doubled contributions by painting the faces of enthusiastic youngsters.

This year, many expenses were paid by member-donations so that we cleared \$772.45. \$406.09 came from donations in the cabin, \$356.36 from face-painting. We had a greater-than-usual number of new members sign up.

Exhibits centered on our "new baby"—the history center—but included relics and pictures from the Midland, our "electric quizzer", and photographs from other aspects of Colorado City history. Donors in the cabin put their money into an over-size baby bottle and received a balloon.

For the first time, parking was simple for those on duty—they used the History Center parking lot across the street!

Great American Car Race

A month later, we again opened the cabin, with the same features, during the Great American Race. Although the turnout was good, the old cars were attractive enough that relatively few people came through the cabin. We netted \$70.42

Honor Roll

EXHIBITS

Kay Arnold
Ed Chonka
Ralph Conner
Lucille Cunningham
Ira Current
Mrs. Steve Muskewinski

SET-UP

Ralph Conner
Virginia Cox

SCHEDULING and SUPERVISION

Clint Waller

SHIFTS IN THE CABIN

Jean Christopher
Virginia Cox
Lucille Cunningham
Chuck Geiss
Liz Geiss
Jan Knox (2)

Dorothy McGlasson
Lance Michels (5)
Lee Michels (5)
Lyn Owen (2)
Annette Stith (2)
Bud Walker

FACE-PAINTING

Kristina Henderson
Amy Michels

BALLOONS

Mielissa Baird
Matt Bradford
Beth Rempe
Tim Rollenhagen
Carrie Williams
Danny Williams

DONATIONS

Leon Young—balloons
Lucille Cunningham—helium
Shirley Kyllonen—face paints
Lee Michels—face paints

AT THE CABIN DURING GREAT AMERICAN RACE

Sally Brawner
Lucille Cunningham
Lyn Owen
Jim Rogers
Bud Walker
Jo Walker

(We don't have names of the "balloon crew" supplied by Katie Williams from the West Center for the Great American Race. We will recognize their support later. Face paints for this session were donated by Lucille Cunningham.)

History Center Is Zoned With Historic Recognit'n

Among important steps accomplished during the summer was proper zoning for our history center. The City Council okayed a change from residential to "office-residential," with a "historic overlay," giving local recognition to the historic nature of the building.

Where Did Grandmas Go?

Jean Christopher supplied the following cheerful poem which Lucille Cunningham read at our April meeting:

In the dim and distant past,
When life's tempo wasn't fast,
Grandma used to rock and knit,
Crochet, tat and baby sit.
When the kids got in a jam
They could always call on Gram.

In the day of gracious living
Grandma was the gal for giving.

But today she's in the gym
Exercising to keep slim.
She's off touring with the bunch
Or taking clients out to lunch,
Going north to ski or curl,
All her days are in a whirl.

Nothing seems to stop or block
her

Now that Grandma's off her
rockers.

CORRESPONDENCE

We didn't have space in May to acknowledge Kenny Englert's many activities. The Orange County Register notes his busy life at Leisure World, getting around on a motor scooter with deer horns tied to the handlebars.

While once he herded buffalo in Salida, he now often herds Leisure World residents to theaters, games or museums. He acknowledges being a character, but good-naturedly gives the Californians a friendly taste of the ranching and hard-work culture Kenny knew in Colorado Springs and Salida. He still rises with the sun.

The Leisure World newspaper noted his first-hand experience of standing on Pikes Peak and observing the view that inspired America the Beautiful. More than that, as a Navy gunner during World War Two, Englert's first assignment was on the cargo ship "Katherine L. Bates."

A year ago he was visiting his home state of Nebraska seeing a 91-year old aunt during the 91st annual Old Settlers picnic.

TRANSITION

LUCILE MATHEWS ELLIS

Lucille Ellis died at her home June 13 at age 82. She was a quiet but dedicated member of O.C.C.H.S. and other organizations.

Mrs. Ellis was born in Denver, Oct. 4, 1910, to Charles and Mary (Schillinger) Mathews but lived in Colorado Springs all her life. She belonged to Old Colorado City Historical Society, Westerners, El Paso County Pioneers Asso., Friends of the Pioneers Museum, Historical Society of the Pikes Peak Region, Friends of Tutt and Penrose Libraries, Senior League, and W.E.S. She was an active member of the Merry Matrons Extension Club for 42 years. She designated the Old Colorado City Historical Society to receive memorial contributions.

She is survived by her son, Don, of Boulder and a brother, Adin, of Los Angeles. Three brothers, Carl, Eric and Hugh, and a sister, Ruth Plummer, preceded her in death.

She had many collections and once planned a museum of her own. In recent years she gave firm backing to our efforts to establish a History Center.

Through husband and relatives she was custodian of a treasure-trove of historic information and material, much of which is coming to the Old Colorado City Historical Society. Her husband, William, who died in 1980, was a researcher and writer whose work included a history of early Colorado Springs leader Matt France. Her brother Carl was a serious historian who, in addition to his own research, received notes and manuscript collections of such local scholars as Ray Colwell and Harry Galbraith, which Lucille gave to O.C.C.H.S. some time ago. She allocated to us a priceless assortment of books and photographs. She gave financial help shortly before she died.

While she has rewarded us handsomely, it is her constant interest and unobtrusive support which will most be missed.

Sec'y Gives Future Resignation Notice

Ralph Conner asked the board to accept his resignation as editor of WestWord and as secretary of O.C.C.H.S., as of May 1st, 1994.

"I enjoy everything I do," he says, "but there are too many of them." He sought relief a year ago, telling the board that he was being forced to neglect too much and the secretary's job wasn't being done adequately.

Time records over his last two terms show he averaged 70 hours a month on Society business.

Dorothy McGlasson took over publicity, and president Joyce Johns handled many details that might fall to the secretary. Virginia Cox helps set up and remove chairs at meetings. For several years Lyn Owen has dealt with luncheon reservations, which formerly was the secretary's job.

Still, in May, when elections approached, the time needed for secretarial and newsletter jobs hadn't slackened and he was burning out. But with election of a new president he agreed to help ease the transition for one year.

Conner joined the board in 1982, was treasurer in 1984, and was elected secretary in 1985. That year he began editing WestWord and gradually expanded its scope. O.C.C.H.S. growth and increasing activity caused demands on both positions to expand.

"Joyce Johns did a tremendous job seeing through the purchase of the history center and laying the groundwork for the archives and museum," he says, "and Lucille Cunningham is just what the Society needs for the next phase—we couldn't have a more inspirational leader. We have lots of talented and enthusiastic people. I want to continue helping, but I need to serve in new ways." He has in mind projects to add knowledge of local history.

He adds that being secretary and editing the newsletter are both fun, and that new people will bring freshness to the work.

A Westside Welcome to New Members

This is a first!—devoting a whole page to new members, and topping even our rich harvest in May. Our thanks and a warm welcome to those who signed up. (Please let us know if we've overlooked anyone.)

Margery Adams has been "patrolling" the Westside as part of her job lining up advertising for the twice-a-year "Spirit" travel magazine. She's intrigued with local history and eager to learn more, and although her duties will eventually take in the whole city she chose to start with Westside and Manitou Springs.

Our first Florida member is **Wannis R. Bowen**, a school principal who joined at the cabin during Territory Days. He was here (from Frostproof!) visiting his brother who works at the Air Force Academy but he's curious enough to want to keep in touch with our organization.

Edward and Gertrude Chonka have deep roots in the Westside. Ed was born on Modes avenue into a Midland railroad family; his brothers were Charles, Albert and Paul and they attended Westside schools. Ed was a printer at the Free Press and Sun. Gertrude Chonka was born in Colorado Springs and was a wartime employee of Western Union and a homemaker, raising four children. Ed benefited us when he supplied pictures he took of the last run of the Midland, and donated rare "patterns"—the wooden forms created by carpenters that form the mold for cast-iron railroad parts. He and his brother salvaged them when the Midland shut down in 1949 and despite the occasional need for kindling, preserved those which Ed donated to O.C.C.H.S. We displayed the patterns and pictures during Territory Days.

Diane Ciccarelli (Chick-a-relli) lives in a historic home, on property with a plat stretching back to the 1860's. She says the James boys helped put together her home at 107 N. 33rd, in the Grand View area.

A local native now living in Los Angeles signed up during Territory Days, when he came to Colorado Springs for a family reunion. **Richard Jamison** joined for two years and contributed several items for our History Center. The Jamison family was the subject of a write-up in the Pikes Peak Journal and West Side Story. Five boys and two girls were the children of **Lee Jamison** and **Elizabeth Whittenbeck Jamison**. At age 17, Lee worked for the Cog Road, carrying coal to pump water at Windy Point for the cog engines. He ended up an engineer, with 11,000 trips up the Peak. His son Richard has given O. C. C. H. S. an early picture of Whittier school, a graduation program for Colorado City High School dated May 24, 1919 (last year of School District One), and a souvenir menu for Thanksgiving dinner, 1917, at Fort D. A. Russell, listing Lee Jamison and other members of Battery F., 83rd Field Artillery.

Jessie King is one of those who settled on the Westside by choice, a resident for 15 years, enjoying the area and wanting it to prosper. She likes our important and interesting history.

Charles McNames has roots here, starting with grand-parents who came in 1949 to a house in the 2600 block of North Cooper. After teaching in college for 16 years he came "home" to retire, opening the Roadrunner Turquoise Shop in the Pikes Peak National Bank Building.

John Parks III is another Westside businessman, living on the Westside for 25 years. At 201 S. 15th he conducts a model railroad business—in all gauges, but specializing in G scale. He welcomes visitors from 1-5 on Sundays, 9-6 on other days.

We welcome **Jim Rowe**, who joined in May. His home is in Granite, Colorado, which put him out of reach as far as getting more information about him.

David Swearingen has been a resident since 1957, and is an active member of the 1st Colorado Volunteer Infantry. He comes by that activity honestly, for an ancestor was a drummer in Co. B of the civil-war-era militia. He formerly worked at Law mortuary. He notes that the Volunteer Infantry has a lady's auxilliary, members of which dress up in period costumes and appear at special events!

Joe and Marty Walker are another couple who are Westsiders by choice, moving here from Carrollton, Texas after a vacation visit. They've been Westsiders just a month. He's an engineer, she's a computer programmer, and they have both adopted and ask to BE adopted by the Westside. They live around the corner from our History Center, so it'll be convenient to volunteer!



We're growing

Esther Wickard doesn't need an introduction to most Westsiders. Having been an enthusiastic and beloved teacher at West Junior for 34 years, she's well acquainted with a good many local residents. Her hat collection is well known, and she has added a hat representing Mrs. Clinton to the hats of the presidents' wives. She's long been interested in our organization, and presented a pair of programs at our meetings.

We're enriched by this fine group of new members. We have around 200 members now. Don't let us get so large that we cease to be friendly and welcoming to those who share our enthusiasm for the Westside.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Croff, Treasurer

April

PPN Bank (chkg) Bal, 3/31/93	6,364.57
Membership deposits	+1,015.00
Contribtn, architect's fees	+2,000.00
Postmaster, PO box rent	-17.50
Zoning change, Cpl Spngs	-465.00
Architect (2 chks)	-3,141.91
Utilities	-67.81
Old Col City Asso., postage	-61.48
(Joint mailing, Feb. & Mar.)	
Bank Svc. chg.	-15.94
(This amt. was restored in May)	
Int. on PPN checking acct	+7.69
Chking Acct Bal 4/30/92	5,617.62
PP Nat'l CD	12,971.86
Fitters Credit Union CD	25,250.83
World Savings CD	42,196.28
TOTAL ASSETS 4/30/91	86,036.59

May

Kasten Accting (Tax returns)	-165.00
Architect's fees (2 chks)	-389.64
Utilities	-85.76
Memberships deposits	+245.00
Bank svc chg adjustment	+15.48
Int on checking acct	+7.41
Chking Acct Bal 5/28/93	5,321.33
PP Nat'l CD	13,028.81
Fitters Credit Union CD	25,335.00
World Savings CD	42,035.04
TOTAL ASSETS 5/28/93	85,720.18

June

Territory Days	+772.45
No expenses	
Chking Acct Bal 7/1/93	6,006.40
PP Nat'l CD	13,027.95
Fitters Credit Union CD	25,419.45
World Savings CD	42,458.38
TOTAL ASSETS 6/30/93	86,912.18

July

(The board voted to close out our acct. with the Fitters Credit Union (\$25,526.69) to take advantage of a 4.01% interest rate offered for 10 months in a new Certificate of Deposit at World Savings.)

Utilities (Part of June+July)	-108.85
American Car Race	+70.24
Chking Acct Bal 7/30/93)	6,197.92
PP Nat'l CD	13,056.11
World Savings CD	42,458.38
World Savings CD (incl int)	25,565.98
TOTAL ASSETS, 7/30/93	87,278.39

SECRETARY'S EXPENSES

Ralph Conner, Secretary

For June, July and August

Newletter 11x17 goldenrod paper	22.56
Newletter annual, 11x17 white	19.50
Postage: 182 NLs x 29¢	52.78
Misc. postage	13.95
Total due Sec'y, Jun, Jul, Aug	108.79

MEETING SEPT
THIS
MONTH 10

11 am at Trinity U. M. Church, 1920 North 20th
Located just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center
To make or cancel luncheon reservations, please phone
LYN OWEN, 473-1846 You may leave a message
at any time.

MEETING OCT
NEXT
MONTH 8

ROLL ☒ CALL

from our last meeting:

We had 49 at our meeting May 4th.
These members signed in:

Kay Arnold	Lance Michels
Doris Baab	Lee Michels
Ed Bathke	Helen Michelson
Jean Christopher	Millie
Ralph Conner	Ken Mirise
Virginia Cox	Mary Nielsen
Art Crawford	Lyn Owen
John Croff	Jack Patterson
Lucille Cunningham	Jim Rogers
Ed Curry	Virginia Rogers
Martha Curry	Harriet Seibel
Lucile Ellis	Mel Sinton
Liz Geiss	Rose Slusher
Melva Gordon	Wilma Stephens
Eileen Graham	Gene Tarbert
Marjorie Harris	B. E. Tillotson
Joyce Johns	Jean Tillotson
Jan Knox	Nancy Tracy
Shirley Kyllonen	Bud Walker
Aldine Lipe	Mary Jo Wallace
Agnes Loesch	Clint Waller
Carl McClure	Pat Bonser Walters
D. McGlasson	Bessie Wreath

VISITORS AND GUESTS

Bill Hazelton Beverly Lewis
Jessie M. King

Historic Trivia

Recollections of early Colorado
City by the late Luther McKnight.

Luther remembered shift changes at
the Golden Cycle mill coming at 7
(am), 3 and 11 (pm).

The first "electric irons" were sad
irons (irons with no heating element),
heated on an electric "hot plate."

One way kids got spending money
was to collect tin cans and stick them
in a fire to melt the solder; solder
could be sold for 50¢ a pound.

The 1902 water rate was based on
a charge of \$1.25 a month per room.
You paid an additional fee if you had
a horse or cow.

When Kodak first produced color
film Orrie Stewart won a national
prize with a picture of local Indians
posed in front of the Balanced Rock.

One of the highest-paid workers at
the mills was the lead burner, who
worked with barrels in which pulver-
ized ore was dissolved with chloride.
Because of the dangers of working
with lead these men usually faced an
early death.

WESTWORD

Edited by Ralph Conner, 719/634-0895

Vol. IX, Nbr. 1 Sept. 1, 1993

Published the first of almost every
month by the non-profit corporation:

Old Colorado City Historical Society
1 S. 24th
Colorado Springs, CO. 80904-3319.

The Old Colorado City Historical
Society was formed to maintain the
memory of Colorado City (1859-1917),
encourage research, preserve pictures,
keep alive the unique culture and spirit
of Westside Colorado Springs, and
establish a history center at 1 S. 24th
honoring Colorado City's dramatic and
significant past.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held the second Friday
of each month (except June, July and
August) at 11 a. m., usually at Trinity
United Methodist Church, 701 N.
20th—just west of Uintah Gardens
Shopping Center. The public is wel-
come and no reservation is needed for
the program.

The meeting is followed by a lunch-
eon, served by people of the church.
Cost is \$5 per person. RESERVATIONS
ARE REQUIRED FOR THE LUNCHEON
and should be made by phoning Lyn
Owen, 473-1846. Leave a message any
time. Please call Lyn Owen to cancel
if you find you cannot attend.

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual membership is \$5 a year;
family membership is \$10. Memberships
are welcome any time. Renewal falls in
April. Members receive this newsletter
and local members will be phoned be-
fore each meeting if they wish.

Lifetime Memberships are also
available for \$100 per person. This
amount is placed into a Perpetuity/
Endowment fund, to be used only for
projects which have been approved by
two-thirds of the members. Only the
interest will be used for current
expenses. We welcome gifts to this
fund, which will be credited to the
donor or as a memorial.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President	Lucille Cunningham	636-9341
Vice President	Jan Knox	495-3359
Secretary	Ralph Conner	634-0895
Treasurer	John Croff	632-2896
	Vera Chambon	634-2340
	Virginia Cox	635-8705
	Orrin Haynes	635-2488
	Sandi Hoewisch	635-2266
	Joyce Johns	635-4649
Publicity	Dorothy McGlasson	632-1932
	Leon Young	633-2621

Colorado City Observes 125th Anniversary of a Tragic and Dramatic Indian Attack

In September, 1868, plains Indians raided white settlements—to steal horses, but often causing death and damage. The county and Colorado City suffered their worst Indian encounters.

Indians began in Kansas in August and spread their raids into Colorado and Wyoming. Details from newspapers that follow fanned a flurry of fear for many months, and explain the settlers' terror of Indians. Additional information comes from Irving Howbert's "Memories of a Lifetime in the Pikes Peak Region," written 40 years later.

The Rocky Mountain News called the raids the "most extensive, determined and damaging attack ever made on the settlements of Colorado and Kansas," listing these August incidents:

- 22—Bill Comstock killed near Hays City; 3 killed near Fort Wallace.
- 23—William Keime killed at Hedinger's Lake; horses run off at Bent's Fort.
- 24—William Brosh and two herders killed near Latham. Smoky Hill stage chased near Cheyenne Wells.
- 25—Mrs. Bele Dietermann and son John killed on Kiowa creek.
- 26—Edmund Pratt killed and scalped near Cheyenne.

Indians had planned attacks on settlements along the front range in 1864, but settlers were warned and only a few lost their lives. Colorado City established the "fort" at the Anway Hotel on what is now Pikes Peak Ave. and locals killed Indians sizing up the town for an attack.

The death of Mrs. Dieterman and her son (above, Aug. 25) was upsetting in Colorado City for she was well known here. Mr. Howbert supplies additional poignant details:

The Dietermans, 25 miles from Colorado City, were anticipating a wedding. Mr. Dieterman was in Denver buying furniture, leaving at the ranch Mrs. Dieterman, son John 5, a daughter 12, Dieterman's sister and a farmhand.

Something alarmed Mrs. Dieterman and she and other residents left to go to a neighbor's. A few hundred yards from the house Mrs. Dieterman remembered money she had left behind; she and her son went back to get it. They were returning to the others when Indians appeared, shot, stabbed and scalped the mother and shot the boy repeatedly. The hired hand pointed the handle of his hoe at the Indians as if he had a rifle, allowing himself, the daughter and sister-in-law to escape.

On Sept. 1st, at DeLano's mill, 8 miles from Colorado City and 4 from Bijou Basin, Indians ran off horses and killed a 5-year-old boy.

At the Teachout ranch, 8 miles northeast of Colorado City on the Monument, Indians took horses and the Teachouts assembled a posse to give chase. These men ran into a large group of Indians and hastily dug in on a low bluff. Without food or water and surrounded by Indians they were in a precarious position, but the braves moved on without attacking. News of their peril reached Colorado City just as the following events unfolded.

SEPT. 3, 1868, ABOUT NOON, fifty mounted Indians came down the Monument rounding up horses.

Robert Love was riding down the creek at the spot where Fillmore crosses now. He drew his pistol and used his horse as a shield. The Indians milled about briefly then rode on.

A few Indians investigated a house west of the creek. David Spielman had come home after taking his family to Colorado City. He was asleep when the Indians came. They peeked through the open door but didn't spot Spielman. They took his horse and returned to the main body of Indians.

Eighteen-year-old Charley Everhart, who lived west of the Creek near present Bijou St., was herding cattle east of the creek near today's Tejon St. He dashed for home, but was shot off his horse near Platte and Cascade. An Indian speared and scalped him.

Jay "Judge" Baldwin was herding sheep near the present Vermijo and Cascade corner. With no spur or whip he used his boot to urge on his horse. A shot entered his back, angled through his neck and came out his jaw. He fell from his horse and used the same boot to fight off the Indians. They left him for dead except for one who stopped to scalp him. After running his knife around the back of Baldwin's head he discovered the herder had been scalped before and went on. Baldwin survived.

Farther south, herding sheep, were Franklyn and George, 8 and 11 year old sons of Thomas H. Robbins. Witnesses saw Indians reach down from their horses, each grab a boy by the hair, raise him with one hand and shoot him with a pistol in the other. They tossed the boys to the ground.

Settlers were now alerted and able to resist, so the Indians left Colorado City—and the area. But newspapers sustained the terror for weeks.

E. F. Stone, a member of the Territorial legislature, organized Colorado City, setting up a guard of 45 at the fort, sending 10 to gather stock and forage, picking 12 to scout for Indians.

The Denver and Santa Fe Stage Line stopped operations immediately. It was Sept. 11th before a coach, six passengers, an express messenger and two guards came from Denver with express goods and arms for Colorado City. The company promised that if that coach made it—and it did—they'd resume service "next week."

EL PASO COUNTY BEGAN ADDING up its losses. According to newspapers, besides Colorado City's 3 youths, Charles Baldwin said there were bodies of 14 men killed by Indians in the area of Bijou Basin. R. Stubb said five died in Fountain and about half the community's horses had been stolen.

And raids continued. Indians drove off 25 horses near Colorado City on Sept. 6th. Four miles from Colorado City, men gathering goods to bring to the fort spotted two Indians racing to the ranch house to steal weapons; the settlers out-ran the Indians. Indians sneaked in among mules at DeLano's mill near Bijou Basin and tried to stampede them, but were discovered and driven off. Horses of Hopkins, Disbrow and Langdon were stolen near Plum Creek and the Langdons lost house and grain to fires set by Indians.

Sept. 25th, "T. H." wrote the News estimating that Indians caused \$100,000 damage in the Territory, \$40,000 of which was in El Paso county. He said the Indian Commissioners didn't do their job of keeping the peace and left the settlers to protect themselves.

After the Colorado City raid the News complained, "So far, not a soldier of the United States has moved an inch toward our relief, that we can hear of. We think this is not treating us right."

The Civil War had ended but only a few troops were in the west. Sept. 15th, 23 miles west of the scene of the Sand Creek battle, Capt. Graham and 50 men of the Tenth Colored Cavalry were attacked by 100 Indians but drove the Indians back. Capt. Graham said he lost only 9 cavalry horses, although other reports said the unit lost all its horses. No soldiers were wounded.

Capt. Graham did claim a personal victory. He was surrounded by 7 Indians and one threw two spears at him, missing each time. Capt. Graham shot the same Indian just as he moved to plunge his spear into the captain.

One incident illustrates the fear that gripped people. At Bijou Basin, Dr. J. W. Linly walked into a house of a hired hand with the greeting, "How!" Without waiting to identify his visitor the farmhand instantly shot him.



YES! YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN!

This structure was built in 1891 (cost of \$23,375), and the photo appeared in the first Annual Report of Municipal Affairs (1902). Colorado Springs' population was 21,085 in 1900, and was declared First Class in Feb., 1901. The city was building a city hall at Nevada and Kiowa, expanding water supplies, and savoring its progress.

The book was given to us as part of the legacy of **Lucile Mathews Ellis**. An interesting sidelight is the inscription inside the front cover (right). Its ownership is obvious; was it inscribed by the General?

Gen. Wm. J. Palmer.

Okay, okay, so you don't quite remember. You're looking east, towards the water tower at the D & R G station, and the Bijou Street Viaduct is the subject of the photograph.

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Old Colorado City Historical Society
Sept. 1, 1993

Vignettes
of Old Colorado City
2423 1/2 West Colorado Ave., 80904

Memorial Contributions

The Old Colorado City Historical Society received memorials honoring the late **Lucile Mathews Ellis** from the following:

Merry Matrons Extension Club
Mrs. E. L. (Dorothy) Brickell
Ralph Conner
Lucille Cunningham
Dr. and Mrs. George V. Fagan
Leland Feitz
Joyce Johns
Carol Loewecke
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