

November 8, 1985

Mel McFarland Introduces Us to Region's Past Appearances, and Historic Surprises

Trivia question: Where did the "Antlers Fire" of 1898 start?

Mel McFarland recalled at our October meeting that this famous catastrophe began in the railyards of the Denver, Texas and Gulf Railroad at Sawatch and Colorado, perhaps started by hoboes who lit straw to warm themselves. Flames spread to a freight car loaded with explosives, and the resulting blast spread a fire that burned a dozen blocks of Colorado Springs. The Antlers was the most famous structure destroyed, but was not the only casualty.

(Mr. McFarland says the DT&G depot was "forgotten", and later writers assumed the fire originated at the D&RGW depot. His own research confirms the Sawatch site.)

Mr. McFarland's picture history of the Pikes Peak region presented familiar sights to some old-timers, such as the "cog" train from the Broadmoor hotel to the Zoo, or the Burns/Paramount/Chief theater. But members and guests were often surprised by pictures recalling history long since forgotten.

How many residents remember the watering trough in the intersection beside old City Hall? Or recall the Winfield Stratton statue at Nevada and Cucharras?

Among Old Colorado City scenes were Bancroft School, and the Glass Works, served by the Midland Terminal on tracks up Arch street.

Probably few knew there were railyards in Roswell, or knew of a smash-up there caused by a run-away car which coasted down from Peyton in the early 1940's.

Though the buildings are still standing, not many could identify the region's first "super-market" (a Piggly-Wiggly selling bacon at 15 cents a pound), or the first sure-enough automobile service station (Platte and Cascade, southeast corner).

Some of his pictures, he admitted, were mysteries to him some time. He puzzled over an apparent railroad depot which turned out to be "Balance Rock" station on the street-car line, from which tourists walked a considerable distance and paid a quarter to visit The Rock.

Thomas Van Camp Gives Society Valuable Record of Early Settlers

Thomas G. Van Camp of Colorado Springs has given the Old Colorado City Historical Society a valuable reference book listing El Paso County settlers, generally before 1871.

Since Colorado City was the only major settlement in the dozen years before Colorado Springs was established in 1871, the book covers a period of great interest to Westsiders.

Mr. Van Camp titled the book, *In the Beginning...*, and set himself the goal of collecting into one package the names of early people of El Paso County. He published the book in August.

Carl Chilcott, recognizing the value of the book to the Old Colorado City Historical Society, discussed a possible purchase with Mr. Van Camp, but Mr. Van Camp generously donated a copy to the Society. Mr. Van Camp also presented Mr. Chilcott a copy in recognition of Mr. Chilcott's contributions to the book.

Book's Contents

Van Camp's book lists information from virtually every source of early history, including the 1870 census, marriage records, homestead entries, lists of veterans, county officials, tax schedules, and early county recorder's entries; and includes two maps. It undoubtedly represents a prodigious number of hours of research.

The book performs a major public service in bringing information from a variety of sources together in one location. But an even greater convenience is the alphabetical indexes which accompany most lists. One list cross-references maiden names.

Corrections Requested

Mr. Van Camp presented the book to the Society with the request that members who examine it let him know of any additions or corrections.

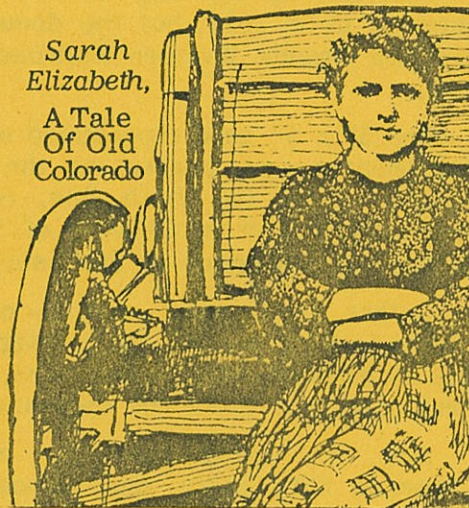
On instructions of the membership at our October meeting the Secretary wrote Mr. Van Camp to express the Society's appreciation for his gift.

The book is the custody of the Secretary, and any member wishing to examine it or to carry out research can borrow it by contacting Ralph Conner, O.C.C. H.S. Secretary.

This month's program:

Kay Arnold Reviews the Life Of Early-Day City "Resident"

Sarah
Elizabeth,
A Tale
Of Old
Colorado



Member Kay Arnold presents our program this month, with a review of a new novel, *Sarah Elizabeth, a Tale of Old Colorado*, which could be subtitled, a tale of Old Colorado CITY.

It tells the life of fictional Sarah Elizabeth Smith Deweese, the third woman to arrive in Colorado City.

The book is by J. G. Masters, former partner in Peerless Printing and Kinnikinnik Book Store.

Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We're pleased to add these members who joined last month:

Helen Bussetti
1915 Henderson Ave, Apt. A
Colorado Springs, CO. 80904
632-9891

Lyn Owen
1919 Henderson, Apt. B
Colorado Springs, CO. 80904
473-1846

James G. Rogers
7 Sutherland Place
Manitou Springs, CO. 80829
685-4109

Visitors and Guests: The D&RGW Knows: Colorado City Still Lives On!

We were pleased to have 23 present for our program last month. Among them were the following visitors or guests:

Mel McFarland, historian, and our speaker of the day.

Jim Ozment, with the D. & R. G. W., visiting from Lakewood.

Orville Kenelly, Westside attorney.

Transition:

News of the death of **James H. Hoskins**, Sept. 26 in Bradenton, Florida, at age 73, has been received from friends by Sally Brawner here.

Hoskins worked in the Civil Service in Colorado Springs for 22 years, and was active as an entertainer and historian, and owned a restaurant and concession business before moving to Florida nine years ago.

In the 1930's he was a radio newscaster, writer and entertainer, giving Hugh Downs his start in radio in 1939. In 1953 he wrote and enacted a children's radio serial called the Box K Ranch, playing seven characters. He wrote Western Fact and Fancy under his stage and pen name, Jim Sage.

He played several musical instruments and played with musical combos. He was an officer in the Historical Society of the Pikes Peak Region.

He's survived by his wife Elizabeth and his mother Bernice of Bradenton; his son James R. of Woodland Park, a daughter Marcia H. Wilk of New York City, and three grandchildren.

Adele Galvin Must Give Up the Vice-Presidency

Adele Glavin, Vice President and program chairman for O.C.C. H.S., has undertaken a new job which requires her to work nights. Sleeping days makes it difficult for her to carry on the business of the Society, so she has asked to be relieved of her office.

WEST WORD

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Colorado Springs may THINK it wiped out Colorado City when it annexed us in 1917, but the document above proves that the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad, for one, recognizes Colorado City still.

The 3" x 5" card reproduced above was attached to a tank car a few months ago, parked on the D&RGW tracks just west of 21st Street. Note the fifth line, referring to Colorado City. Those instructions lead to delivery of the tank car to the siding adjacent at the Conoco office at 21st, south of Cucharras.

Luther McKnight's natural curiosity and insatiable interest in Colorado City led him to investigate the tank car a few months ago, and to discover the routing card. Ralph Conner "borrowed" the card long enough to make the copy shown above.

Now, the tracks end after crossing 22nd Street. The D&RGW Colorado City depot once stood in the 2200 block, just south of Cucharras. In earlier days the tracks continued along Cucharras, on their way to Manitou. The tracks were buried when Cucharras was paved, for one rail can still be seen in the middle of Cucharras, just north of the post office at 25th street.

Our next meeting:

DEC. 13

Treasurer's report:

Sept. 30 balances	572.69	815.00
Income fr membs	19.00	
PO Box rent	-11.00	
Postage, guests	-26.56	
Oct. 31 balances	554.13	815.00

"THE WILD WEST" ILLUSTRATED FROM NEIGHBORING KANSAS

We worry about "lawlessness" in society today, but that isn't a new problem. Witness the following news item taken from a Coolidge, Kansas, newspaper in July, 1886:

"About two o'clock Sunday morning Dan Jones, marshal of Coolidge, went into a saloon run by Shade Denison, and told a rough named John Luke to make less noise. He told the marshal that he would do as he pleased, when Jones arrested him and

OTHER HISTORY MEETINGS:

The Ute Pass Historical Society is featuring "The Night Before Christmas" each Saturday and Sunday night at the Museum at Cascade, from 10:00 to 5:00, through December 22nd.

On display, midst quilts and period furnishings, are Christmas trees, trains, and four generations of toys.

The Ute Pass Society will hold a reception for members at 7:30 p. m. on November 20th.

started for the calaboose. Luke was reinforced just outside the saloon by one or two others who held Jones's hands while Luke stabbed and cut him in eight or ten places, from the effects of which he cannot possibly recover. The city attorney bound Luke over before the police magistrate and also before a justice of the peace, and the sheriff held him for about five hours and then turned him loose because Luke refused to go to jail."