

History, Weather Are Topic Today

Dr. Robert E. Smith speaks today on "Weather in the Pikes Peak Region: The Historic View."

Members know him through his tenure as weatherman on Channel 11, as a teacher at Coronado High School, and through his early residence on the West Side. He is the grandson of the Rev. F. O. Seamans, who for many years was pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Fifteenth and Pikes Peak.

Visitors and Guests:

We didn't circulate the "sign-in" sheet at our last meeting, but we're pretty sure a record 29 people attended if we count our speakers.

Mrs. Jene Campbell was a guest of Ruth Kruse.

Ralph Conner's guests included Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Atkins of Waxahachie, Texas. Mr. Atkins is a cousin of life-member Luther McKnight, and is in town to look after Mr. McKnight during his current illness. Mrs. Barbara Carter is a student of Westside history, a teacher of fifth and grade students at Whittier School, including most of those who appeared on our program, and is the prime mover behind the project allowing students to study Westside history independently.

Special guests of the Old Colorado City Historical Society were the Whittier students who reported to the membership: Johanna Anderson, Sarah Beatty, Ken Gimpelson, Brian Grantham, Kelly Hiatt, Ernest Schilling, and Patti Smith.

April 11, 1986

Progress of Old Colorado City Historical Society Is Examined as a New Membership Year Is Starting

Local, out-of-town, and "prospective" members of the Old Colorado City Historical Society are invited to support the organization with their memberships today.

It's been a busy year of varied programs, growing membership and loyal attendance. Important steps were taken to put our affairs on a more business-like basis.

Perhaps the most noticeable new feature is our newsletter, keeping touch with members who cannot attend meetings. Several out-of-town residents support our goals with their memberships.

We established an endowment fund this year, reserving money for long-range projects. We have eight life members, whose contributions (\$100 each) are set aside for this purpose. Thanks to the kindness of Ricky Cross's family and friends, more than a hundred dollars was added in his memory. According to our by-laws, this money can be spent only after approval by two-thirds of our membership.

We "caught up" with a couple of lapses. When our post office box expired we lost contact with Pikes Peak National Bank, and our accounts failed to show bank charges. Our incorporation as a non-profit organization had been suspended, but is now renewed.

We involved ourselves in several community projects. Two members serve on the Colorado Avenue Commission. As reported in this issue, we contributed \$25 to the History Day project. Two members attended a workshop in Denver on photo preservation (at their expense). We wo-manned an information booth in Bancroft Park during Territory Days.

We are slowly building a library, adding Thomas G. Van Camp's valuable listing of pioneer settlers. We undertook this year to prepare a booklet on

"Legends of Colorado Avenue", although we won't have it ready this summer as we hoped.

We expressed our dismay, as a society and individually, at a possible name- and emphasis-change in the Pioneers' Museum.

Statistics show that in our nine meetings since May of last year attendance averaged better than 22. Membership increased 29% since September, to 53. We are holding our own financially, with about the same amount on hand now as in July, 1985.

Programs included Mel McFarland's picture history of the region, a slide history of Manitou Springs presented by Roxanne Eltin, Julie Jones-Eddy's tape-and-picture presentation of women of the Western Slope, Ed Berry's genealogy and family review, and the history projects of Westside fifth and sixth graders. Our members contributed programs on Bob Womack (Jan Knox), a review of the Westside novel "Sarah Elizabeth" (Kay Arnold), and "Back to School" (everybody).

The year ahead holds at least equal promise, and may offer the opportunity to expand significantly our collection of items for a future museum.

Troublesome Westside Family Is Reported About Frequently

by Sarah Beatty
Whittier History Team

[Penrose Library's file of the **Colorado City Iris** is the major source of this troubled family's story.]

For those interested in "ladies" in Old Colorado City in the years 1893-1898, I have picked out one which to me is very interesting. Mrs. A. Belle Diemer was about 30-35 when this story took place. Now you think that most ladies back then were all pretty and perfect but after you read this it may give you a different view of Old Colorado City.

She had a series of arrests, but let's start with the first one. One night, September 2, 1893, after a party, Mrs. Diemer met with a Mr. Chandler at his house. After a little while, they left and went to Mrs. Diemer's. Mrs. Diemer's two daughters, aged 8 and 15, were there also. Mrs. Diemer, still drunk, went to get more whisky. When Mrs. Diemer came back, Mr. Chandler was attacking her 15-year-old daughter. Grabbing her rifle, she shot Mr. Chandler. When the police came, they arrested both Mrs. Diemer and her 15-year-old daughter.

Mrs. Diemer was tried for murder and declared not guilty by a jury of 12 "good" men. She and her daughter went home only for Mrs. Diemer to get arrested time and time again.

Things stayed quiet for one or two weeks until September 23, 1893, when Mrs. Diemer and Mrs. Howard were having tea when an argument arose. Mrs. Diemer chopped Mrs. Howard in the head with a hatchet. The police arrived and arrested Mrs. Diemer and put her in the city prison. she was released on 200

dollars bond (which in those days was a lot of money).

The next time there was trouble was January 9, 1894, and would you believe it was over a bunch of rabbits! Mrs. Diemer and her neighbor got into an argument because Mrs. Diemer owned a male rabbit and her neighbor owned a female rabbit who "met" and had eight baby rabbits.

"I get five and you get three, that's fair!" argued Mrs. Diemer. "If it wasn't for mine we wouldn't have baby ones!"

"If it wasn't for my rabbit we wouldn't have them either!" Mrs. Diemer claimed that her neighbor threatened and abused her and a policeman was sent out to check.

Opposes Daughter's 'Rescue'

On November 21, 1896, Mrs. Diemer charged a Mother Superior of a Catholic institution in Denver with kidnapping. It seems that Mrs. Diemer's 16-year-old daughter had written the institution and had asked to be taken in. Mrs. Diemer, being stubborn as she was, took the Mother Superior to court. She also said that her daughter was about to have been sent to St. Louis for some untold reason.

Her family must have been a bad one, because the next problem was with her 12-year-old daughter. January 16, 1897, was the date when her daughter was sentenced to the State Industrial School for Girls. Whether Mrs. Diemer grieved for her daughter, I don't know, so I leave this paragraph here.

Trouble must have been Mrs. Diemer's middle name, because here it comes again. Mrs. Diemer went to a party on the night of October 22, 1898, where some people snubbed and teased her. Mrs. Diemer "declared war" and was thrown in jail for disturbing the peace.

I must end my story somewhere, so I'll end it here, where at least Mrs. Diemer got home—from the insane asylum where she must have spent at least a year.

Relic of Historic Jail Recalls Story of a 'Refreshing Break'

by Ken Gimpelson
Whittier History Team

[This information came from newspaper research, an interview, and examination of the cell now located in the 2400 block of West Cucharas.]

The El Paso County jail was located on the corner of Vermijo and Cascade. A wrought-iron fence ten feet tall was placed around the square building. In the middle of the fence was a gate activated by a lever inside the building office. The office was also the headquarters of the sheriff. After entering the yard a locked door was in your way. A total number of locks on cells and buildings was eight. One of the old cells can be found in the supply yard of Surplus City.

Another jail, the Colorado City jail, is located in what is now Come Fly A Kite. The building used to be the second city hall. The cells are not open to the public. In this jail the cells were moved, refurnished, and opened.

The people in jail were few. They averaged around five or six, most of them drunk and starting a fight, or having been too loud. Since so few people were there at one time a cell had two bunks, one restroom, and was 11 feet by 6½.

Only two escapes were reported, only one made the newspaper. Some burns had snuck out during the middle of the night. They probably got something to drink. Then they snuck back in.

Details Given About Famous Pikes Peak Marathon Course

by Patti Smith
Whittier History Team

[This report relies on published material at Penrose Library.]

The Pikes Peak Marathon is the second oldest marathon in the United States. Runners come from different states or even different countries to test their endurance on 14,100 foot mountain. The course is long and tiring with sharp switchbacks and loose rock for most of the course. Everyone who finishes is a winner.

The marathon course winds up Barr trail to the summit of Pikes Peak and back to Manitou to complete a round trip distance of somewhere between 26 to 29 miles.

At the sound of the starter's pistol, hundreds of runners begin the race by running along the narrow streets of Manitou Springs before moving on to the base of Barr Trail beyond the old Cog Station. For the first three miles, the course winds up through low banks of scrub oak up Mt. Manitou to French Creek. The next four miles lead up to Barr Camp halfway up the mountain. About two miles and several switchbacks later, the runners come to the first landmark, the Forest Service's A-frame shelter. Beyond is Dismal Forest, a graveyard of twisted tree trunks left from a fire sixty years ago. Young aspens are beginning to grow back though.

Right above Dismal forest is timberline; small tundra plants take the place of trees. Approximately one mile after timberline is the bronze plaque dedicated to Mrs. Emedine Roberts, age 88, who died of exposure while making her 14th ascent.

Two or three miles later is a deep basin called the Cirque

whose 1,500 foot depths were caused by a glacier in the ice age.

The last mile consists of 32 sharp switchbacks and is called by the runners with an absence of affection, "16 Golden Stairs." At the summit loose rocks provide unsure footing for the runners.

The Pikes Peak Marathon has an interesting history. In the year 1956 smoking was beginning to be rejected. An early critic of smoking, Dr. Suominen, wanted to test his theory that smokers ran slower than non-smokers. He challenged three smokers to race him up Pikes Peak. All three smokers accepted and a date was set, Aug. 10, 1956. Rudy Fahl of the Westside heard about the race and volunteered to organize it.

On Aug. 10, three smokers and ten non-smokers began the race. One smoker reached the top. All non-smokers did. No smokers finished the race. Most non-smokers did.

The race was such a success it became an annual event.

In 1956, thirteen runners ran the marathon. As the years went by, more and more people ran. In 1977 so many people registered, some had to be refused. In 1985 runners were registering half a year before the race.

The times have improved greatly. The winning time in 1956 was 5 h 40 m. Twenty-nine years later the record time was set, 3 h 40 m, two hours better. Steve Gachpin won the marathon for six years in a row. This is the highest winning streak. Rick Trujillo follows with five wins.

The Pikes Peak Marathon was the first marathon that allowed women to run. Their participation has been official since 1957. Since the beginning of the marathon in 1956, the race has been popular with most marathon runners.

Runner's Opinion

Jeff Smith has run the Pikes Peak Marathon for three years. In the paragraphs below he offers his personal opinion of the course, the good points and bad points, and the best conditions for running.

Jeff gets up at 5 o'clock on Marathon day. The clothes he wears have to be carefully chosen. In the morning it's very cold. As he runs up it becomes hot. At the summit the temperature is freezing. On the way down the sun comes out and becomes very hot again.

On the day of the race it is wise not to eat anything. The race starts at 7 but the food doesn't digest quickly.

Jeff says about half a mile beyond Barr Camp the air becomes thin. By then you're tired and the course is steep. When nearing the top you know you're halfway done. This helps you push a little further.

One of the great problems is looking out for other runners. At the top you turn around and go back on the same course. Other runners are going up when you're going down. It's hard to avoid them.

When you reach Mt. Manitou going down, you hear the cheers of the crowd. This helps encourage you. One of the neat things is the speakers. They say your name, number and time on a loudspeaker as you finish.

There are seven aid stations along the course. They offer water, bananas, apples, first aid and erg, a chemical replacement drink. They are a big help.

After the race many people declare never to run the marathon again. They are sore, tired, and hot. But usually about one month later they are thinking a better way to run, how many ways they could improve their time. It truly is one irresistible marathon.

Society Sends Help To History Project

Members voted in March to support the History Day Project with a \$25 donation.

The motion was by Sally Brawner, second by Ruth Kruse.

History Day Scholars, Inc., is a local non-profit group which supports local competitions and helps local regional winners attend national competition in Washington, D. C.

Young people from 6th through 12th grade compete with historic papers, group performances, projects or displays on a historic event or person. In 1985, over 500 students entered the Regional contest; El Paso County had 33 state winners and three national winners.

President Honored By Manitou Group

Joanne Garrison, manager of Manitou Springs Development Company, used our March meeting as the forum to present a Certificate of Appreciation to O.C.C.H.S. Pres. David Hughes, for help to her organization.

The plaque reads that it was presented "in appreciation of Devoted and Invaluable Services rendered to the Manitou Springs Development Co."

News Notes from Other Societies

Historical Society of the Pikes Peak Region: Tue., Apr. 15, 7:30 p.m., Garfield School, 332 E. Willamette. Mrs. Ann Williams speaks on Deaf and Blind School Museum.

Ute Pass Historical Society: Wed., Apr. 16, 7 p.m., Cascade. Gene Messenger presents a program on Colorado Springs' founder, titled, "The Palmer Legacy."

Coming of Spring Fostering Spirit of Palmer Festivities

Local history gets special attention this month and next, especially in two series of events sponsored by local colleges, open to the public without charge, and extending into May.

PPCC (Pikes Peak Community College) programs are Wednesdays at noon and 7 p.m. at the Downtown Studio, 19 N. Tejon. Reservations are recommended; call 576-7711, ex. 316 or 320.

UCCS (University of Colorado at Colorado Springs) programs are Monday nights at Penrose library's Davis Auditorium.

April 14. UCCS. Joe Gordon, "Regionalism and Higher Education."

April 16. PPCC. Rhoda D. Wilcox, "The founding of 'Little London.'"

April 19. Students compete in History Day at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Several observances occur today in honor of Arbor day.

April 21. UCCS. Rudy de la Garza, "Change in the Political Panorama of the West: The Latin Influence."

April 23. PPCC. Tom O'Boyle, "Functions of Music in Early Colorado Springs."

April 28. UCCS. Robert Loevy, "Population Growth and Partisan Politics in the West."

April 30. PPCC. Gladys Bueler, "The Mirror of Fashion."

May 5. UCCS. Joanne Greenberg (fiction and non-fiction writer), "A Long Way from Zane Grey."

May 12. UCCS. Alexander Blackburn, "Tragedy of West."

Please keep in mind Museum Day, May 18th, when most local museums will open free or at a reduced price. We'll have further details at our meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Members' donations (50¢ to \$5.00) paid for all except \$8.00 of the cost of our seven guest last month. Three absentees have not yet paid.

	Current	Endow
Mar 13 bal	561.83	815.00
Fr members	8.00	
Bank int (-chgs)	2.80	
Hist Day contrib	25.00	
Postge & guests	36.36	
Apr 11 bal	511.27	815.00

Total: \$1,326.27, compared to \$1,328.92 in September, 1985.

WEST WORD

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The Old Colorado City Historical Society
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The Old Colorado City Historical Society was formed to maintain the memory of Colorado City (1859-1917), to encourage research, to preserve historic buildings, mementos and pictures, and to keep alive the unique culture and spirit of Westside Colorado Springs.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month (except, perhaps, in the summer) at a. m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1920 Henderson Avenue—across 19th Street west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center. The public is welcome at all meetings, and no reservation is needed for the program.

The program is followed by a luncheon, served by ladies of the church. Cost is \$4 per person. Reservations are required, and can be made by phoning O. C. C. H. S. secretary Ralph Conner, 634-0895. Deadline is normally the Wednesday before the meeting, although last-minute changes may be made up to 5 p. m. the Thursday before the meeting. Since we're responsible for all reservations made, please call the secretary to cancel if you find you can't attend.

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual membership is \$5 a year; family membership is \$10. Renewal falls in April. Members receive our newsletter, and local members will usually be phoned before each meeting.

Also available is a Lifetime membership, for \$100. This amount is placed in our Perpetuity-Endowment fund, to be used for long-term projects which have been approved by two-thirds of the membership. 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

President: David Hughes 636-2
Secretary-Treasurer: Ralph Conner 634-00

BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Clark	Flora Belle Hull
Vera Chambon	Agnes Johnson
Elva Dusten	John Keller
Betsy Evans	Adele Galvan
	Leon Young

**Next meeting:
May 9th**