

January 10, 1986

Manitou's Colorful History Brought to Us In Slide Presentation at Latest Meeting

In December members saw a sweeping picture history of Manitou Springs, from a Jackson photo of tourists sharing a drinking cup in 1873 to the Cliff House fire of 1982.

Under enthusiastic leadership by Roxanne Eflin, a volunteer from the Main Street Project, we saw a blend of old and new which was, and is, a Manitou characteristic.

Manitou is the largest historic district west of the Mississippi, we heard, with 1,001 structures.

Much history is still with us: Miramont Castle sparkling after 106 years; Briarhurst standing as it did in 1887; the town clock ticking off the minutes since banker Jerome Wheeler donated it in 1890.

Relatively few remember the bathhouse which stood from 1887-1927, or water flowing along open irrigation ditches. Barns along the main street no longer house burros to carry summer tourists up Pikes Peak.

Gone is the exciting prospect for a Manitou child of caring for a burro during the winter!

Efforts to revive the Manitou Mineral Waters remind us of historic beginnings: gas was bottled and sold before "the waters" drawn from 27 springs brought worldwide fame to Manitou. There were also 27 resort hotels, whose guests promenaded on a Sunday.

We were reminded of what to see on our own promenades. Last building constructed of greenstone from nearby quarries was the Post Office. We are urged to look at the "matched" construction: materials were numbered so that stones at one end would match similar stones at the other.

News Notes from Other Societies

The Historical Society of the Pikes Peak Region will hold its 14th annual dinner on the west side, and deal with a "West-sider", Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 6:30, at the Masonic Temple, 1150 Panorama Drive. Rhoda Wilcox, author of The Man on the Iron Horse, will present a program on the "Spirit of General Palmer Festival," observing his 150th birthday which occurs this year.

A baked meatloaf dinner is \$6.75 per person; make reservations by Jan. 17 to 714 S. Nevada, 80903.

Program Today Reveals Westside 'Mystery Man'

Despite Bob Womack's legendary fame as "the discoverer" of Cripple Creek gold, and his associations with Colorado City, we know relatively little about him. We'll know more after today, for member Jan Knox will share the results of her research into Womack's life.

Letter Expresses Society's Preference for The Pioneers' Museum's Original Name

Carl Chilcott reported at our December meeting that the Pioneers' Museum told the Colorado Springs City Council it is considering a change of name for the Museum. Many old-timers and museum supporters, he said, are disturbed at the possibility.

A motion by Agnes Johnson instructed the secretary to write the city council and inform them of the Society's displeasure at such a move. Edward Curry seconded.

Text of the letter follows. A copy was sent to Keith Riddoch, as chairman of the 7-member board of trustees. He says proposals involving a name change won't be made for many months, although opinions are welcome now, while the staff considers the issue.

Mr. Riddoch says the Museum wants to distinguish itself from about two thousand "Pioneer" Museums around the country, many of which are small. Displays are hard to get, for example, when sponsors aren't aware the Museum can protect exhibits.

Individuals are invited to submit an opinion. The mayor's address is 30 S. Tejon, 80902; Mr. Riddoch's is 215 S. Tejon, 80902.

Mr. Robert M. Isaac and
members of the City Council

Dear Mr. Isaac:

I was instructed at our December 13th meeting to express the firm opposition of the Old Colorado City Historical Society to a re-naming of the Pioneers' Museum.

Colorado Springs' present leadership in space, electronics and military security is built on groundwork laid by early settlers.

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

Joanne Garrison, manager of the Manitou Springs Development Company, added her support with a membership. Her phones are 685-4255 or 685-9456. Her mailing address is P. O. Box 72, Manitou, 80829.

Treasurer's Report:

	Currnt	Endow
Nov. 30 balances	574.53	815.00
From members	+9.00	
Re-incorporation	-45.00	
Postage, meal adv.	-20.34	
Jan 10 balances	518.19	815.00

**Next meeting:
Feb. 14th**

The museum not only exalts these people, it was established by them. Thanks to the start they made, as early as 1897, we have made great progress in honoring our roots. To change the museum's identity, even symbolically, would shame them and all of us.

Our strong commitment to the arts makes it unwise to move the museum in that direction, to compete with the Fine Arts Center, private art displays and college programs. Such efforts would, inevitably, limit the space and enterprise devoted to our historical heritage.

It would be arrogant to rename the museum the "Colorado Springs . . ." People settled here a dozen years before this city was established. The "Historical Sketch of Colorado Springs" by H. S. Rogers, which lies in the cornerstone of old City Hall, notes that El Paso County's population was 986 in 1870, a year before Colorado Springs was laid out and two years before incorporation. By the time the city founded a school district, ten districts had been established elsewhere in the county.

We appreciate council's support in preserving the old court house for a museum; we applaud the interest you took Dec. 23rd in a historic preservation ordinance. We trust this demonstrated respect for our past would lead you to reject a new name.

Whatever reasons may be given for changing the name or scope of the Pioneers' Museum, they will not outweigh our obligation to honor those who first settled here. Please do not allow a change of name or change of focus for the Pioneers' Museum.

Sincerely,
Old Colorado City Historical Society
Ralph Conner, Secretary-treasurer

January 6, 1986
cc: Keith Riddoch

Ute Pass Society Budget Suggests Museum Costs

Members of the Old Colorado City Historical Society who dream of a Westside museum have little information on its expense. But the Ute Pass Historical Society has experience in opening its Museum in Cascade.

Under Jan Petit's dynamic leadership, the Society expanded exhibit space by five times in moving from a cabin in Green Mountain Falls to Cascade.

Its December newsletter lists expenditures needed to carry out its ambitious plans.

It paid \$41,000 down on the former Sourdough building and spent \$74,000 in remodeling it with extensive volunteer help. Other building expenses totaled \$27,000. It owes \$100,000, half of which it hopes to pay in 1986.

The Museum's 1986 budget includes:

- Mortgage payments, \$9,000.
- Salaries of professional supervisors, \$18,000.
- Building upkeep, including utilities, \$9,200.
- Added remodeling, \$13,000.
- Exhibits/programs, \$3,000.
- Promotion/education, \$6,900.
- Office expenses and cataloging, \$2,500 to \$3,000.

The budget totals \$61,600. Coupled with the intended repayment of a \$50,000 loan, the Society hopes to raise \$111,000.

It anticipates income from admissions, gift-shop sales, memberships and other sources totaling 16 to 40 thousand.

Thus, the Ute Pass Society has a fund-raising goal of 71 to 95 thousand dollars for 1986.

You're From Colorado City? So, How Many Wives Do You Have?

We're proud when friends associate us with Colorado City. But to avoid embarrassment, be sure your companion isn't thinking of recently-incorporated Colorado City, ARIZONA.

That town was begun during the depression by excommunicated Mormons who wanted to continue the polygamy outlawed by the mother church. It has 1,700 people, about half of them children. One man is said to have fathered 80.

Leroy Johnson, founder and spiritual leader, established the town across the Grand Canyon from the rest of Arizona. "Uncle Roy," 98, took his 16th wife in

Status Is Renewed as Non-Profit Corporation

Incorporation of the Old Colorado City Historical Society was restored Dec. 17, soon after we learned it had been suspended.

Suspensions were raised when we failed to hear from the Colorado Secretary of State for some time. Member Orville Kenelly investigated on behalf of the Society on Dec. 11 and found we'd been suspended Sept. 30, 1984, after we failed to report that year.

Officers quickly sent the necessary papers and fees and we were reinstated as a non-profit corporation. We owed \$20 for 1984, \$15 for 1985, a \$5 reinstatement fee, and a \$5 fee to bring the registered office and agent up to date.

Our original incorporation in 1980 listed the name of a former president at an address on Colorado Avenue. Incorporation was renewed in 1982, but necessary papers from the Secretary of State failed to reach O.C.C.H.S. officers when renewal came due in 1984.

Registered agent and office is now the Secretary-Treasurer Ralph Conner at his office, 10 S. 23rd. A street address is required by the Secretary of State, rather than a post office box number.

A new report and \$5 fee will be due May 1. With the correct address now on file, there's no danger of a future lapse.

Visitors and Guests:

What turnout would you expect at a meeting held Friday the 13th, with sub-freezing temperatures and icy roads?

Despite handicaps like these, 25 attended our December meeting; luncheon was served to 24—not counting the Ruth Circle ladies who served the lunch!

Roxanne Eflin presented the program and was our guest.

Joanne Garrison, manager of the Manitou Springs Development Company, was a welcome visitor, and we were pleased to have return visits from Lucile Ellis and Virginia Rogers.

A unique visitor was Anna-Leah Hathaway, who misunderstood the meeting's location and arrived late. She had no luncheon reservation, but took over an absent member's reservation and joined us for lunch!

1984. Thirteen wives survive.

The Wall Street Journal, reporting on the town, quoted one man: "Uncle Roy tells us where to live, where to work and who to marry, and if you follow all his orders and are generous in your tithing, he'll reward you with another wife."

There is dissent in the conservative religious town, but property is owned by a cooperative trust, so it can't be sold. One man explains, "I can't sell my house because the trust says it isn't mine." With two wives and 19 children, "it isn't easy to find another community where a family like mine will fit in."

Library's Urban Growth Materials Are Featured

The Pikes Peak Library District wants O.C.C.H.S. members to know about new materials on urban growth issues which will be on display and available for check-out at Penrose Library downtown beginning Jan. 16.

Several hundred new titles are available on such topics as neighborhood planning, historic preservation and renewal, anticipating increased interest in these topics in a growing city.

WEST WORD

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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 11 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 Petuity-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 636-2040
Secretary-Treasurer: Ralph Conner 634-0895