

Friday, October 10, 1968

Absentee, Gift Memberships Also Support O. C. C. H. S.

Can't Attend Meetings, Miss Old Friends
But Out-of-Town Members Remain
Loyal Supporters of Society

Examination of the Roster distributed at today's meeting and with this newsletter shows a facet of our organization which should give us pride: we have valuable support from out-of-town members, and through gift memberships.

We're delighted to have interest through the region—from other parts of town and neighboring communities. We appreciate our active members from Manitou, and our representation in Ellicott and Woodland Park.

We also have participation stretching from Oregon and California to New York state. **Isabelle Mosley** has loyally kept alive a Klamath Falls, Oregon "chapter" for several years, through her membership carried with her when she left Colorado.

Stanley L. DeGeer holds a life membership even though he and **Eloise** live in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They attended in May, and plan another visit here this month or next.

Stan DeGeer gave generous new help through enrollment of four family members (see new-member list at right). This sponsorship gives us benefit from membership fees, and makes (we trust) new friends. This newsletter's goal is to give out-of-town people better contact.

Others, among them **Sally Bawner** and **Carl and Bertha Chilcott**, aid us not only with their own enrollments, but by sponsoring other members.

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new members who joined or were sponsored in time to be included in the membership roster distributed today.

Stan DeGeer enrolled a group of family members:

Lyman W. DeGeer of Sun City West, Arizona.

Ernest R. DeGeer of San Francisco, California.

Harriett DeGeer Ford of Warsaw, Kentucky.

Frank J. DeGeer of Bellevue, Kentucky.

We're pleased to re-welcome a former member who is rejoining: **Margaret Bofenkamp**, 2605 King St., #4, 632-2450.

And we were both surprised and happy to welcome membership from a former Westsider, **Ira Current** now of Rochester, New York.

Our Library-to-be Adds City Directory Selections

The Pioneers' Museum has generously given us copies of City Directories which duplicate the several sets of directories it maintains.

Coupled with volumes from **Luther McKnight**, we have now, and will be able to make available to researchers through our future library, City Directories from the following years:

1900, 03, 05-06, 06-07, 07-08, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 26, 34, 38, 39, 40, 43, 45, 46, 48, 55, 56, 57, 61, 63, 68 and 69. Some years have more than one copy.

Kay Arnold donates a literature book once belonging to **Irving Howbert II**.

Take a Nostalgia Trip on a Trolley

John A. Haney will show pictures and tell about the romantic "Pikes Peak Trolleys" today.

Mr. Haney is a Colorado Springs native, and co-author of two books about trolleys: one centered on Tucson, Arizona, and a recent one (with Rev. Morris Cafky) on our own street-car network. Colorado City was the western terminus of the original horse-cars, and later welcomed the vital link with Colorado Springs and Manitou.

Mr. Haney illustrates his talk generously with slides.

Board Making Decision About Matured Certificate of Deposit

Board Must Decide How Long to 'Lock Up'
Sizeable Amount, What Interest to
Seek, Whether to Take Bonus

The Society's Board meets at 10:30 today to decide what to do with a maturing certificate of deposit from **Luther McKnight**.

The deposit drew 10% interest until Oct. 6, and Sept. 25th totaled \$78,596.08.

Options include a new investment, or renewal with American Federal Savings and Loan. If it is "rolled over" for two years, we'll earn a bonus of \$4 per thousand (about \$314), and 7% interest (7.25% compounded).

One-year renewal pays \$2 per thousand bonus, and interest at 6.5% (6.72% compounded). A nine-month renewal carries a bonus of \$1 a thousand, and the same interest as a 1-year certificate.

A bonus can be paid to us, or deposited to draw more interest.

Voices and Views of East El Paso County Coming in November

Prof. Michel Dahlin Collects Tapes and Photographs of Disappearing Farmers

Latest technology is preserving memories of the farm and ranch life which were common in Eastern El Paso County for most of its history. Vice-president and program chairman, **Jan Knox**, says O.C.C.H.S. members will see results of this project at the Society's next meeting.

Professor **Michel Dahlin**, assistant professor of history at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs, recorded interviews with residents whose homesteads are disappearing because of problems common to all farmers, and because many agricultural acres will be swallowed up for the military space command and support industries east of the city.

The stories of these families, who scratched a living from dry-land farms and cattle-raising for the past hundred years, are preserved by Ms. Dahlin, and she has illustrated her taped interviews with snapshots from these same families. She'll have the production transferred to video tape for our Nov. 14th meeting.

December Meeting Will Break Pattern

Jan Knox reported on future program plans Sept. 12th and suggested we might wish to change our usual routine when Christmas approaches. In line with her recommendation, on a motion by **Edward Curry** seconded by **Aldine Lipe**, members voted to eat along Colorado Ave. in **December** (meeting after next), and to tour the Simpich Character Dolls factory.

Society Replaces Historic Plaque

Members voted in September, on a motion by **Edward Curry** to replace the plaque originally installed in 1983 in "Brent's Alley", with the understanding that the city will mount it so it can't be stolen again.

The brass plate reads:

THE ORIGINAL COLORADO CITY

FOUNDED AUGUST 13TH, 1859
FIRST TERRITORIAL CAPITAL 1861
NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT 1983

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Brent's Alley" is the passage on the north side of the 2500 block of West Colorado leading to the parking area. The plaque is attached to the wall of Bambino's Pizzeria, formerly the Territory, where it can be read by pedestrians on Colorado Ave.

Cost of the replacement is \$267.00.

Visitors and Guests:

Besides our speaker of the day, **Joyce Johns**, we were pleased to have six visitors at our September meeting: **Charles McElhaney** attended with **Kay Arnold**, and **Agatha Shryack** was the guest of **Ruth Walsh Kruse**. **Leslie** and **Christine Atkins** were guests of **Ralph Conner**.

Ruth F. Maxwell came as a guest of **Agnes Johnson**, but left that category by becoming a member.

Renny Fagan, candidate for State Representative from Dist. 22, also came to our meeting. There were 31 at the September program; 29 stayed for lunch.

Next meeting: Nov. 14th

(at Trinity United Methodist)

Treasurer's Report:

Balance 9/2	Current	460.27
Bank interest (-chgs)		+4.50
From members (3 deposits)		+58.00
A-1 Adv Speclts (plaque)		-267.00
Balance 10/10/86		255.81
Endowment Fund		
PP Nat'l (cheking acct)		1,315.00
American Federal		78,596.08
World Svngs (11 accts)		15,133.50
		<u>95,044.58</u>

WEST WORD

Vol. 2, Nbr. 3

Published almost every month by
The Old Colorado City Historical Society
P. O. Box 6702, Colorado Springs, CO. 80934

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 lunch 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: Agnes Johnson	633-8040
Vice President: Janis Knox	495-3359
Secretary: Ralph Conner	634-0895
Treasurer: Orville Kenelly (home)	473-5307
	(office) 471-0551

ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Vera Chambon	634-
Dave Clark	(hm) 473-3941; (wrk) 473-3940
Betsy Evans	(hm) 473-7318; (wrk) 634-1698
Dave Hughes	636-2040
John Keller	475-8634
Aldine Lipe	475-1658
Leon Young	(hm) 633-1543; (wrk) 633-2621

Region's Women Spied, Invented, Agitated

Early Settlers Included Share of both Contributors and Characters

Relying on records at the Pioneers' Museum, Mrs. Joyce Johns acquainted O.C.C.H.S. members with less prominent pioneer women in the Pikes Peak region at our meeting Sept. 12, 1986.

She used information gathered by former Museum curator Dorothy Smith, by historian Dora Foster, and sometimes from family members. Mrs. Johns is a volunteer at the Museum.

(Mrs. Johns kindly ^{allowed} use of her notes, permitting more detail and greater accuracy than would come from the secretary's notes.)

Several national movements were reflected here. She told of Reverend Mrs. W. A. Wilkes's efforts to incorporate votes for women in the Colorado constitution shortly before statehood. The Denver Brewers' Association mobilized opposition, fearing women's suffrage would end legal drinking. The first local suffrage meeting, Feb. 17, 1877, was under the presidency of Mrs. J. S. Wolfe, when "Rev. C. W. Blodgett 'reservedly committed himself' to equal rights and privileges to those of whom equal obedience and duties were required by law." Was it his congregation or his wife, asked Mrs. Johns, who influenced Rev. Blodgett to make this limited endorsement?

Mrs. Fannie Wright McConnell was a Civil War spy under Confederate General Bragg, but settled at 1928 West Cucharras. She explained that women could more easily slip into enemy camps than men.

Another Westsider, Mrs. Emil (Rosa D.) Stocker invented and patented an improved cloth guide for sewing machines in 1913.

Dr. and Mrs. Henry K. Palmer arrived here in 1875 with their daughter, Lela Palmer Morath Wister, who was born in India and had studied piano and voice at the Boston Conservatory. She was the mother of Fred and Ed Morath, founders of the AdAmAn club, and grandmother to ragtime pianist Fred Morath.

Virginia Donaghe McClurg came for her health in 1887, wrote extensively, and left a legacy in the preservation of the Mesa Verde cliff dwellings. She's responsible for a collection of Mesa Verde pots and baskets owned by the Pioneers' Museum.

Another "writer" was Katherine Lee Bates, who taught religious drama at Colorado College in the summer of 1873. Her trip to the summit of Pikes Peak, and subsequent writing of "America the Beautiful"—perhaps the only poem she ever wrote—is another legacy of the region's early days.

Dorothy Meirow became curator of the Colorado College museum in Palmer Hall, which displayed donations from William Palmer and W. S. Stratton. She later served the Peace Corps in Nepal!

William Sharpless Jackson wed Helen Maria Fiske Hunt in 1875. She died in 1885 and in 1888 Jackson married her niece, Helen Banfield Jackson. A child of that marriage, Helen Hunt Jackson, is now aged 97. She lived at the Jackson house at 228 E. Kiowa until it was razed in 1961. Some of its rooms are preserved in the Pioneers' Museum.

Mrs. Johns gave details of Mary Lincoln Vellen (Queen) Palmer, who married William Palmer in 1870 and died in Britain in 1894 at age 43. The couple's three daughters, 14, 15 and 23 years of age in 1895, returned to Glen Eyrie. The youngest girls died relatively young, but Elsie (born 1872) wed English captain Leopold H. Myers in 1908, and their daughter, Elsie Queen Myers Nicholson, still lives in London.

Unlike Queen, who felt out of place in the Colorado "frontier," Cara Georgina Whitmore Scovell married Dr. William Bell in 1872 and became an enthusiastic hostess at Briarhurst mansion—the original, burned in 1886, and the one built in 1888. She entertained royalty, and with Queen and Rose Kingsley put a stamp of approval on local Society; but she was also at home traveling in a wagon through Colorado mountains with her husband and reluctant cook Antonio. She had four daughters and a son.

A later Briargate hostess was Vida Gregory, who wed attorney Robert F. Ellison in 1907 and lived at Briarhurst from 1940 until her death in the 1960's. Her collection of Indian artifacts was later donated to the Pioneers' Museum.

A colorful woman associated with another spectacular home was Virginia Hobart, who married Charles Baldwin in 1896 and built "Claremont" near the Broadmoor—sometimes called the Little Trianon. After his death in 1924 Mrs. Baldwin married a Russian count. She died in 1958, leaving stories about her eccentricities.

Mrs. Johns displayed a heavy canvas house-dress belonging to widow Margaret Hamp who came in 1877 with four of her six youngsters. She and son Wilfrid insisted on riding the cow-catcher of their train west, to get the first glimpse of the Rockies. A grand-daughter, Julia Hamp, lived here 60 years and established the local girl scouts.

Two Italian natives, Alfonso Pinello and Blanche Venetucci, married and had fourteen children, ten born after purchase of the Skinner ranch south of town. Eight still are in the area; there are 15 fifth-generation Pinello descendants.

Secretary Writes Museum To Remind Board of Our Stand

Pioneers' Museum Begins Active Search for New Name, but O.C.C.H.S. Members Support Old Name and Style

The Board of the Pioneers' Museum has formally committed itself to a name change, according to a Sept. 25th Gazette-Telegraph item (p. B-6). The item requests suggestions for a new name.

In view of O.C.C.H.S.'s opposition to a change, a member asked the secretary to repeat the Society's stand in a letter to the board. The letter follows:

Mr. Keith Riddoch, president,
and members of the Board,
Pioneers' Museum
215 S. Tejon
Colorado Springs, CO. 80903

Dear Mr. Riddoch:

This is in response to the Gazette-Telegraph article Sept. 25, 1986, seeking suggestions for a new name for the Pioneers' Museum "to better represent its present mission."

Members of the Old Colorado City Historical Society have asked me to remind you of the Society's membership vote Dec. 13, 1985, in which we firmly opposed any change of name or scope of the Pioneers' Museum. Our opinion grows from the very basis of the request: we worry that a new name would suggest a different mission from that the Museum has always had.

TRANSITION

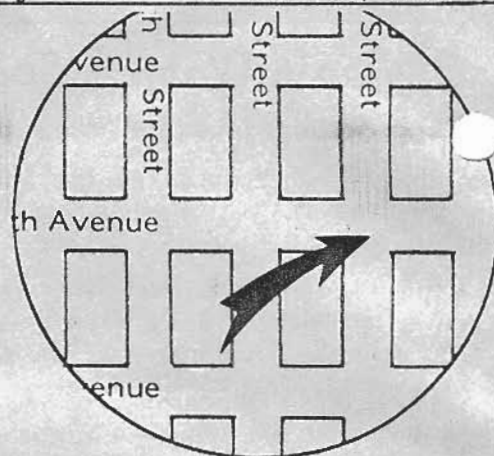
We have belatedly learned of the death of (Malcomb) Keith Trapp at his home June 21, 1986, at the age of 68.

He was owner and retired president of Olson Plumbing and Heating Company. He went to work for the company in 1937 as an apprentice, a year after his graduation from Colorado Springs High School. He became vice president in 1951, president in 1971, and retired in 1982.

Besides membership in the Old Colorado City Historical Society, he was 32nd degree Mason and a member of Al Kaly Shrine.

He was married July 13, 1938, to Mary Nell Feathers, also an O.C.C.H.S. member. He is also survived by son Michael, daughter Margaret Bukowski, both of Colorado Springs, daughter Linda Palmer of Craig; and stepmother M. J. Trapp.

We understand the feeling that a tax-supported institution should reflect the source of much of its income, but it is not too great a demand to ask the city to reflect the broader pride which early El Paso county settlers had when they originally sought to preserve our historic heritage. We are no more justified in changing the name of the Pioneers' Museum than we would be to proclaim Plymouth Rock to be henceforth Massachusetts or America Rock! It is MORE



HISTORIC SITE: The intersection indicated above, taken from a map of Westside Colorado Springs, was the spot where Joe Appleworth was inspired on Oct. 11, 1895, to write the song, "When the Maple Leaf has Turned to Brown." He sent the song to four publishers, none of whom were interested in publishing it. Later, he threw it away. —From *Little Known Milestones in Colorado History*, 1937.

than a city museum, as its present name implies.

Proper recognition of our historical roots is far more important than chauvinism or a misplaced apostrophe. The Pioneers' Museum can earn its "unique identity" through continued excellence!

Sincerely,

The Old Colorado City Historical Society
Ralph Conner, Secretary
October 1, 1986

The Old Colorado City Historical Society

Post Office Box 6702

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80934