

Friday, Dec. 11, 1987

January Subject Is Glassworks' History

The program originally scheduled for November on Colorado City's Glasstown, which existed from 1882 to 1889, will be presented at our January meeting.

Brenda Hawley, Assistant Director of Technical Services at Penrose Library, will share the information which she found when she worked in the local history area of the library, and which has been honed through her hobbies as a bottle collector and historian.

In January, our meetings will resume at Trinity United Methodist Church at 11 a.m., with luncheon (\$4) served at noon by members of the church.

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We happily acknowledge new members who joined in recent weeks:

Ralph G. Hibbard, who heads Hibbard's Department Store, a local landmark institution.

Mr. and Mrs. Wes Pettigrew, who signed up with a family membership.

Duncan G. Rollo, Chief Ranger at the Florissant Fossil Beds, who joined and made a contribution. His participation was inspired by member **Agnes Johnson**, who conducted a walking tour of the Westside for a group organized by Mr. Rollo.

SEASON'S GREETINGS from Colorado City

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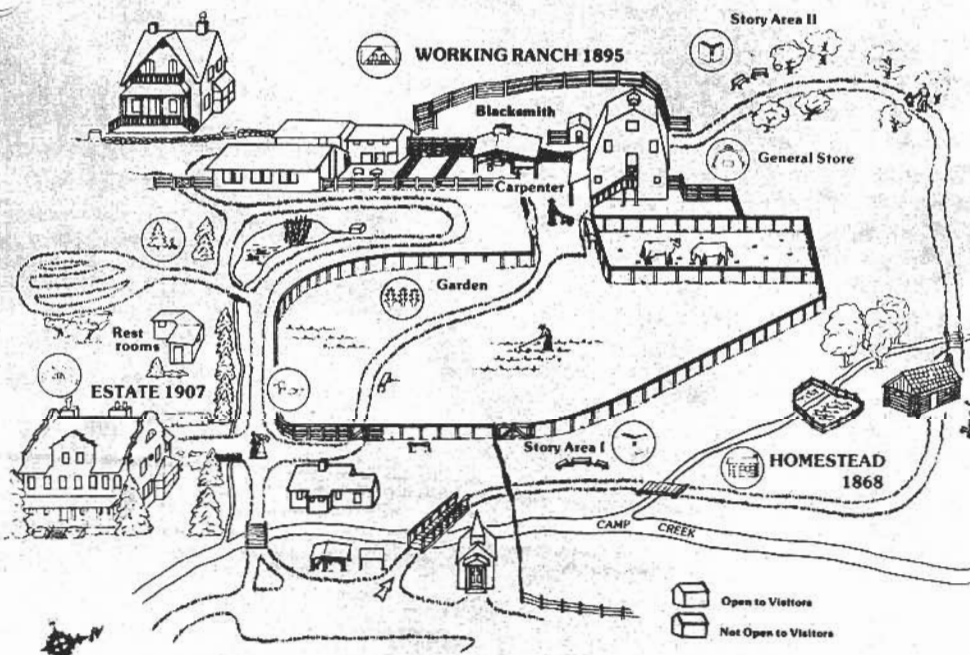
Busy White House Ranch Is Our Topic

Land and agriculture played important roles in Colorado City's history, and were sources of modest "fortunes" of early settlers. Most evidence of that has disappeared, except for remains of the El Paso Canal and other irrigation ditches and one important homestead, ranch and estate: White House Ranch, the living history museum maintained by the City of Colorado Springs.

Today's program deals with that important Westside institution, which holds even greater importance at Christmastime with a busy schedule of special events.

Kathy Read, Fund-raiser and membership drive chairperson, is our speaker and will brief us on both the history and current activities at White House Ranch.

[For the record, today's meeting is being held at Thunder and Buttons. If you're reading this at the meeting time, and you aren't at 2415 W. Colorado, you'd better get moving or you'll miss the whole thing! Our plans for December weren't set far enough ahead to permit arrangements at our usual meeting place, so, as last year, we're "eating out" in December.]



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

Twenty-five Years Ago

January, 1963

County Commissioner Keith McBurney said 70 acres of County Farm land west of 21st St., appraised at \$3,000 an acre, would be auctioned in March.

Two 15-year-old boys shot up the chlorine house near the Mesa filter plant. If they'd put a hole through the tank they likely would have died.

A contract was let for laying pipe from the Mesa filter plant along Mesa Road to Uintah, then eastward.

Pikes Peak Bank of Commerce stockholders voted a 6-for-1 stock split and approved its status as a National Bank effective Feb. 1st.

Erosion re-revealed a cave in the North Gateway Rocks in the Garden of the Gods. A two-foot hole opened into widths of 5 to 15 feet and extended 100 feet north and 100 feet south, with heights up to 100 feet. Danger of rock falling from the ceiling led the city to re-seal the cave.

Civil defense supplies at the Mesa Filter Plant included 23 water drums, 16 cases of rations (each with 36 pounds of food) and sanitation and medical kits.

Don Bates installed officers of the Westside Commercial Club: pres. H. D. Smith; vice pres. John Law; sec'y Lois J. Smith; treasurer H. O. Robertson.

Harvey L. Graves, chief jailer at county jail for eight years, bought the Royal Bicycle Shop, 2401 W. Colorado, from George A. Heming, Jr.

Maxwell's Grocery, 1010 W. Colorado, was held up by a "scared" bandit who confronted June Reed, 1702 W. St. Vrain, with a loaf of bread in one hand and a pistol in the other.

Fifty Years Ago

January, 1938

Brothers, 16 and 18, arrested as they tried to enter the Black Community Market, 532 W. Colorado, confessed to numerous burglaries, including taking a .22 rifle, watches and braces and bits from West End Hardware, 2419 W. Colorado.

Among new year babies: boy to Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Read, 2003 W. Colo.

Local companies raised coal prices. Lump became \$5.50 a ton and egg was \$5.25. Electric rates were reduced.

School board may be breaking state law in giving free meals to students. Law says meals must be served substantially at cost. Others pay 5¢.

Average January old-age pension in the county, counting one-time "bonus" of \$37.77, was \$68.25.



There was talk of re-opening Arensdale school (shown above).

Among building permits: Mrs. Virginia Hahn for a \$1,800 dwelling at 207 N. 23rd; Mrs. Vera Johnson to convert a dwelling at 136 N. 7th into apartments; Glen O. Peterson for a \$50 addition at 2014 W. Bijou.

Mrs. E. C. Nickler hosted the W.C. T.U. at 2411 W. Colorado. Mrs. Anna Crane, 3012 W. Colorado, hosted Ladies' Auxillary #79 of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Broadmoor Hotel opened the Ice Arena and switched from direct to alternating current.

The city considered opening Pine St. straight from Bijou to Mesa Road to eliminate an awkward jog at Dale.

Seventy-five Years Ago

January, 1913

Jan. 7, election day for the Charter Convention, was below zero all day; turnout was a half the usual number. The Charter ticket won down the line. Said the Iris: "A more stinging rebuke to the misrule, the graft, and bossism that has obtained so long could not well be administered."

Two days later, 21 delegates began meeting daily and completed a new charter, patterned after one from Durango, by the 31st. City Council installed stoves in the council chamber to augment the furnace.

Addition of two students brings high school enrollment to 103—highest in the school's history. Whittier's fourth grade has 40 students. Long-fellow had only two tardies last month.

Otto Foersteman, 1911 high school grad, was licensed as an embalmer.

W. E. Smith became a clerk at W. F. Benedict's grocery, 118 Colorado. Mr. Benedict became head bookkeeper in the county assessor's office.

J. D. Boone brought his automobile ambulance to town from Denver.

Frank Wolff and Martin Drake were summoned to police court for not having snow cleared before empty store buildings for which they were agents.

Continental Oil bought lots adjacent to its plant on south First from A. B. Hope for \$3,000.

Advertisement: Barn for rent, with loft: four horses, or one horse and buggy. Call at 1726 Grant.

One Hundred Years Ago

January, 1888

Gazette's New Year's issue praised Colorado City's growth in 18 months from 60 buildings and 150 inhabitants to 300 buildings and 2000 inhabitants. In 1887, 250 houses were built.

Colorado City had three meat markets, seven groceries; two drug stores, two physicians and a lawyer, and one store each for clothing and men's furnishings, jewelry, and general merchandise. Small hotels were inadequate, and there wasn't a bank or hardware store.

Among local industries: stone quarries employing 100 and shipping 260 wagon loads a day; Stewart Stucco and Cement, operating at one-third capacity; and the Midland, with a stone roundhouse, machine shop, offices and car sheds, employing 150 in the shops and 86 local trainmen.

Commissioners planned improvements to Bear Creek Canon road. First chore: a bridge over the Fountain.

D&RG General Manager said Colorado City would get a depot as soon as suitable land could be obtained.

A Denver fighter challenged J. O. Davis, local pugilist and state champion, to fight for a \$1,000 purse.

Charles Stone was elected marshal.

Green Mountain Falls Co. replatted LaVergne and took over lot sales.

Another building was secured for school purposes. Miss M. J. Spears of Colorado Springs became a teacher.

Several substantial frame sidewalks were built along Colorado Avenue.

Three boys set fire to a laundry, almost smothering the Chinaman. They were charged with arson.

Plastering was the last step to completing Ehrich and Adams block.

Marriage license issued to W. M. Kinsman of Colorado City and Miss Clara Brockelsby of Lawrence, Kan.

Louisiana State Lottery tickets were on sale in Colorado City.

Twelve are in the county poorhouse.

Eight lectures for \$1 were announced to benefit the free reading room.

The Midland shipped four trainloads of coal from Jerome daily—each with eight cars, each car holding 25 tons.

There was debate about motives of police magistrate Mahany when he announced suppression of every dance hall and gambling house in Colorado City. Some said the judge had an interest in a gambling hall in east Colorado City and wanted to close a new saloon and gambling hall in the west.

Druggists Were Vital In Colorado City's Society

Colorado City had many drug stores. J. P. Wood, J. H. Swem and W. H. Whitaker had stores in the 2400 block. Others were even longer-lived. The 1888 Directory listed James McIntosh (City Drug) at 512 Colorado; next door (514) was C. R. Godfrey (succeeded by his son, R. T. Godfrey).

Both moved across Colorado Ave.: James McIntosh to 511 (later 2512) Colorado in 1894. He and wife Margaret lived and rented rooms in the same building.

McIntosh operated the store until 1923, installing one of the city's first soda fountains. That year the building housed the post office. (Now Bambino's Pizzeria.) In August, 1923, McIntosh sold the store to Brinton Jeffers, Colorado Springs businessman, formerly clerk with W. F. Meyer.

In 1895-96 Godfrey moved into the "Godfrey Block", 505 (2504) Colorado. Based on the 1901 Directory, Godfrey sold out to Walter F. Meyer for a year, but in September, 1901, Meyer moved "two doors north" to the new Reed building, 507 (2508) Colorado. Godfrey resumed control of the store at 505.

Meyers moved around. In 1904 he transferred to 432 (2431), the

Briefly...

Mr. and Mrs. Wes Pettigrew are in Phoenix for the wedding of a son (on the 10th tee of Mesa Country Club—bride and groom are avid golfers!) and will go with all four of their children to Hawaii for an exciting Christmas.

We're sorry Bertha Chilcott missed our November meeting because of a hospital visit.

But we're pleased at better reports on our convalescents: Madeleine Schaeffer recovering from pneumonia, Erman Biondini, Alpa Cook, and Bessie Shantz.

Our sincere sympathies to Arlene Rieger, whose husband William died last Saturday.

SE corner of (Twenty-)Fifth and Colorado (the Chocolate Factory). Godfrey had one of the first electric signs in Colorado City. By 1913 McCabe operated a store there; by 1915, F. F. Koch.

January, 1914, Meyers moved to 427 (2428) Colorado, (Colorado City Yogurt and Ice Cream). He and his wife (Hetty, Heddy or Hattie—directories aren't sure) and nephew Edmond lived at 212 Monroe (2211 W. Bijou). Meyer sold out in 1922 to Dr. J. L. Tadlock and F. C. Williams who ran Tadlock's Rexall Pharmacy and a Cigar Store.

Visitors and Guests

We're pleased that those who presented our program remained with us for lunch.

Kandi Bryson and H. Loesch of Montrose came as guests of Agnes Johnson.

Louise Baumgardner was the guest of Carl Chilcott.

They're not visitors, but we're glad Debbie Welker brought back Opal Rutherford and Oliver Christianson from Cedarwood.

But a special welcome to the following guests who entertained us so agreeably:

Caller and emcee Merrell Folsom.

The Fountain Creek String band: Sue Couiter, and Naomi and Gus Reynolds, back for their second visit with us.

The dancers belonging to the Country Squires, who could enjoy their calories with a completely clear conscience:

Beulah Conzelman

Stan Wood

Darrell and Avis Porter

Vic and Elaine Fast

Wes and Mary Ellen Pettigrew

Bus and Bobbie Hoyt

Ed and Lillian Wilson

Treasurer's Report

SEPTEMBER

Pikes Peak National bal. 8/10/87	\$12,568.78
Memberships	+50.00
Interest on Pikes Peak Nat'l Bank Acct.	+54.85
Check #1051, Secretary's expenses	-34.86
Bank Service Charge	-.20
Balance in Pikes Peak Nat'l 9/9/87	\$12,638.57

OCTOBER

Memberships	+30.00
Stewart Green (donation from book sales)	+36.15
Interest on Pikes Peak Nat'l Bank Acct.	+53.30
Check #1052, Postmaster (Box Rent)	-11.00
(Not submitted; paid box rent in cash later)	
Bank Service Charge	-.70
Balance in Pikes Peak Nat'l 10/15/87	\$12,746.32

Sept. lunch at Chipta Garden Inn: 26 reservations x \$6=\$156. Paid to Chipita Garden Inn.

NOVEMBER

Membership	+5.00
Interest on Pikes Peak Nat'l Bank Acct.	+53.37
Check #1053, Secretary's expenses	-46.45
Bank Service Charge	-.70

Balance in Pikes Peak Nat'l 11/17/87 12,757.54

Nov. lunch: 38 reservations times \$4=\$152.00. Fifteen guest luncheons (15 x \$4=\$60) were covered by extra contributions from several members, with Jan Knox making up the balance.

Balance in American Federal and World Savings (throughout the period covered above and as of 11/17/87)	\$98,997.99
Grand total as of 11/17/87	\$111,755.53

O. C. C. H. S. Presented With Reference Sources from Claim Club, County Record

Thomas Van Camp performs invaluable service digging out historic material and making it more available to historians. The Old Colorado City Historical Society has again benefited from this pure research, through Mr. Van Camp's generous gift of his most recent findings.

He has presented five volumes of real estate records and listings of El Paso County's earliest settlers. This will be part of our research library when we establish a museum, but anyone interested can arrange to see the material through the O.C.C.H.S. secretary.

Besides assembling information, Mr. Van Camp has added considerably to its usefulness by indexing names of those involved.

Foremost is a copy of records of the El Paso County Claim Club, a protective organization formed before land was surveyed listing 300 land claims from 1859 to November of 1861. In 1862, government surveyors established section lines so a claim club was no longer needed.

This "edition" comes from a copy of the record book, compiled by George L. Anderson and in the Charles Leaming Tutt library at The Colorado College. Mr. Van Camp verified the listings from the State Archives, and added indexes of individuals and places.

A similar record, which takes up where the Claim Club stops, is a summary of the "Little a" County Recorder's Book, from Dec. 21, 1861 to March 2, 1866. (See item in column 1 below.)

Mr. Van Camp gave us a copy of his index of mortgage records from the El Paso County clerk and recorder from Dec. 8, 1870 through April 14, 1874, also retrieved from State Archives.

Descriptions of Property Often Lacked Specifics!

After all, early settlers were farmers, not surveyors or lawyers. So it's not surprising that early property records were a little vague! As an example, here's an entry on pp. 109 and 110 of the "Little a" county recorders' book. To locate the property: identify South Pinery, the Dexter Bacon claim, a gulch that "puffs out," and visualize precisely 160 acres!

Edwin S. Randall
declaration of occupancy of a
portion of the public domain

...160 acres...situated in a Ravine or Gulch that puffs out of the Bluffs about 1 mile above the junction of Cheyenne Creek with the Fontaine qui bouille creek and being the second claim in said gulch from the road that leads to the South Pinery, so called, on the west side of said road and adjoining a claim recorded in claim club Vol. A p. 244 to Dexter Bacon. Meaning by this description to take the whole bottom land up said Gulch from said Bacon's line until 160 acres are covered. (22nd March, 1862.)

(The State Archives are the repository of government records, in contrast to the History Museum which accepts materials from many sources.)

Mr. Van Camp compiled records of the Colorado City Company briefly recording transfers of lot ownerships. The listings reflect original page numbers for anyone who wishes to check the source. It includes a map and an introduction listing Colorado City's distances from major cities, and identifies the settlement as "the only wagon road for 70 miles north or south to the South Park, Blue River, Terry all and Arkansas Gold mines." It reports that as of March 1, 1859, there were 265 houses in Colorado City, with more contracted for.

Finally, Mr. Van Camp supplied names of pre-1872 pioneers as listed for the El Paso County Pioneers Association, to be displayed soon in the Colorado Springs Pioneers' Museum.

Last Month's Question Answered:



Where on the Westside can you drive from an alley directly onto Colorado Avenue? Answer to last month's question is shown above.

The alley enters Colorado Ave. from the south, between 16th and 17th. There's an animal clinic at 16th and Colorado, then a large house numbered 1611. The paved alley between 1611 and 1617 looks like a driveway, but you can drive through to Cucharras.

A similar map in November's WestWord, showed the area on the eastern edge of LaVergne. As Colorado Springs grew, the passage became an alley and 16th was platted further east.

Kay Arnold Reports on Museum She's Involved with in California

Kay Arnold is settled in Riverside, CA. in walking distance of the city library, museum, auditorium and art gallery. She's sharing the area's interest in Chinese who settled before the town was established. What she sees there encourages her about an eventual Colorado City museum.

She's a member of Friends of the Mission Inn, a historical block in downtown Riverside, and she helped during activities in support of the area's restoration.

Palm Springs Desert Museum began in a storefront in 1938 and now occupies a 75,000-square-foot building combining fine arts, performing arts and natural history. It receives no operational support from government.

[She's busy writing letters too. Joyce Johns, Ruth Maxwell, and Ralph Conner relayed her comments as reported above.]



'Extra Dose' of Nostalgia: Colorado City High School's Big Five-for-Eight 1914-15 Football Team Remembered

Josh Brewer Captains the Purple and Gold to a Successful Season; "You Can Kid Gloves and String Beans, but You Can't Josh Brewer"

We know more about the 1914-1915 high school year in Colorado City than any other, because that year ambitious students published "The Aristocrat," a school annual. The picture and information below is from Luther McKnight's copy.

The high school's first graduating class was in 1909, and Colorado City School Dist. #1 was absorbed in Colorado Springs' Dist. #11 in 1919.

Colorado City played eight football games in the 1914-15 year and won five. First was against a "scrub" team of volunteers. Students won 7-0.

They defeated Colorado Springs B-squad 20-0. Their most formidable foe was the Deaf and Blind institute which won two from C-C, 37-7 and 42-2.

Colorado City lost a game in the final minute of play against freshmen of Colorado College 7-0. The locals won two against Victor High 25-7 (home) and 21-0 (at Victor). Games between Colorado City and Victor were usually over-night affairs, and the annual speaks about how well the local team was treated when they were guests of Victor. A Thanksgiving-morning contest against "Westside Terrors"—presumably Colorado Springs High students living on the West side—was won handily by Colorado City, 39-0.

The picture shows almost the whole squad; Colorado City wasn't ready for a two-platoon system! The team often played with only four or five substitutes. There's no identification with the picture, but players are listed elsewhere as follows:

SENIORS

Robert Allen (guard), Ruford Blair and Paul Callahan.

JUNIORS

Ed Borst (talented as a punter), John (Josh) Brewer (captain, spectacular on end runs), Jimmy Chipman (end, captain-elect), Johnny Griffin, John Reynolds, Russel Schreiber (first-year player).

SOPHOMORES

Harold Christy (lineman), Lee (Fat) Huff, Morgan Reynolds, Frank Rice.

FRESHMEN

Edwin Colette, Don (Fat) Claubaugh (from Fowler in mid-year).

Sam Brown is listed as a team-member, but he's not identified in any class roster. Coach was Joe Griffin; William H. Steele was Athletic Manager.

Dancers Demonstrate That Our Ancestors Didn't Endure Boredom on the Dance Floor!

If you've paused for a moment at Bancroft Park and glanced casually at square-dancers in full throttle, you may have dismissed the activity as "the same old stuff." But you'd feel differently if you came to our meeting Nov. 13; you'd recognize variety in square dancing.

Caller **Merell (Mel) Folsom**, the Fountain Creek Band, and members of the Country Squires demonstrated a broad sampling of music and dances enjoyed by our ancestors and, that day, by ourselves.

Everybody, including many spectators, joined the Grand March, to the Revolutionary War tune, "Soldiers' Joy." In the off chance we knew the words, we were urged not to sing out loud!

Folsom called an Appalachian Circle Dance, also popular out west, to "Old Susannah".

Dancers performed "Put Your Little Foot," with roots among early Spanish settlers, sometimes known as "Varsouvianna".

The band offered several tunes, including the regimental song of Custer's Seventh Cavalry, "The Girl I Left Behind Me." Most music was from the 1800's, and about as familiar today as it was when it was most popular.

Dancers formed two lines for a "longway" or "contra" dance. To demonstrate the settlers' accommodation to religion, this dance was performed without musical instruments, the dancers singing "Jimmy

Crack Corn." This was middle ground between those who recognized no religious issue and those who forbade dancing.

A "Waltz Quadrille" used four couples in a square, with guidance from the caller. That was followed by a Quick- or Two-Step, "The Manitou", without a caller. Folsom said it was on a program for a ball at Miramont Castle in the late 1800's, played by a mandolin band.

After we heard "Arkansas Traveler", the demonstration concluded with a Rye Waltz to a late-1700's tune we recognized as "Comin' Through the Rye."

Like the appearance by the band in February, all elements were pleasant: music, history and gentle spectacle!

Caller, band and dancers meet the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at First Christian Church in Colorado Springs; they welcome visitors.

NEXT MEETING:

JANUARY 8TH

Reservations, Cancellations:

Lyn Owen: 473-1846

WEST WORD

Vol. III, Nbr. 5 Fri., Dec. 11, 1987

Published the second Friday of almost every month by
THE OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Post Office 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 in June, July and August] at 11 a. m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 1920 Henderson—just 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 Lyn Owen, 473-1846. Deadline is normally the Wednesday before the meeting, although last-minute changes can usually be accommodated up to 5 p. m. the Thursday before the meeting. Since we must pay for all reservations made, please call Lyn Owen to cancel if you find you can't attend.

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual membership: \$5 a year; family membership is \$10. Renewal falls in April. Members receive this 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 approval from 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

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⑥ Old Colorado City Historical Society
Friday, December 11, 1987

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Post Office Box 6702
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