

February 13, 1987

## A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We're happy to welcome a long-time Westsider, **Bessie B. Shantz** (2004 Armstrong, 634-5073) as a new O.C.C.H.S. member. She's already entered into the spirit of things by suggesting potential members we should contact!

And the "chain" membership described last month, begun by the **DeGeer** family, has added another link, giving Oregon first place for out-of-state memberships and producing another friendly letter to pass along!

**Norma Hoehn** of 31266 Lorane Rd., Cottage Grove, OR. 97424, has been given a family membership by **Lola Cooper Stone**, who died last month as a guest of **Harriett DeGeer Ford**, who was sponsored by . . . etc. etc. Ms. Hoehn grew up on north 25th St.

Ms. Stone says she and Ms. Ford renewed their schoolgirl friendship a few years ago, but haven't seen each other for 54 years. They're working towards a reunion in Colorado Springs next summer!

Ms. Stone writes that she came to Colorado Springs at the time of the flu epidemic in 1918, aged 4, to join her grandparents. "I grew up and went thru school living at 2008 West Cucharras. I married and had 4 children there, before coming to Cottage Grove in 1944. My husband drove a bus there the 5 years prior to our coming out here. He has since passed away and I have remarried.

"When we arrived in Colorado Springs, Colorado Avenue was not paved. As a child we used to cross pins on the street-car tracks and make 'scissors' that

## "History" of Water Is Poulton's Subject

Historically, and today, one of the greatest issues facing arid Colorado is the control of water.

Our March program will bring that question close to home when **Curt A. Poulton** will give us a case study of the water rights on Bear Creek, starting with the earliest settlement in 1859 and touching on claims and ditches which developed over the years.

In early days the region was veined with canals carrying water from streams. Mr. Poulton has hiked many of these, and will illustrate his talk with slides.

Mr. Poulton's study of water control grew out of work as a design engineer of irrigation equipment and a growing interest in historical geography. It led him to begin work on a Doctor of Philosophy degree with the University of Minnesota. His thesis is that law, which permitted prior appropriation of water rights in Colorado, was written without legal or social institutions to support it.

Mr. Poulton has lived in the area fourteen years and has been a visitor at recent O.C.C.H.S. meetings.

never worked."

Ms. Stone's address is 34245 Meyer Rd., Cottage Grove, OR. 97424. Ms. Ford's address is in the address book issued earlier.

Again we welcome these former residents, and feel sure they'd be pleased to hear from other Westsiders.

## Instruments to Stir Memories and Feet

We don't anticipate that members will be dancing in the aisles, but we do expect some vigorous toe-tapping during today's program.

The **Fountain Creek String Band** will present music from the turn of the century or before—about the time Colorado City was founded.

The band is composed of **Sue Coulter**, **Gus** and **Naomi Reynolds**, and **Peggy Mihelich**, who have been playing together about five years, mostly for square dances. In the old tradition, their music isn't amplified.

## Church Continuing To Serve Luncheon

The reorganization of Circles at Trinity United Methodist Church is complete, and they'll continue to serve lunch to Old Colorado City Historical Society members as in the past.

Some groups found it difficult and they'll be excused. Others will serve more often, but their members "enjoy" the work (could they do the job they've been doing if they DIDN'T enjoy it?) and are pleased to serve O.C.C.H.S. and the church in this way.

One member has agreed to handle clean-up on a paid basis to relieve church ladies of one less-pleasant aspect of the work.

Members are pleased at the arrangements, because of home-cooked food, a reasonable price, convenient parking, and an excellent meeting room. As in the past, reservations are needed for lunch, and **Lyn Owen** will call members before each meeting.

## Display and Storage Facilities Enhanced

The Old Colorado City Historical Society has added valuable display and storage facilities for its future museum.

We now have a ten-foot long, counter-height glass display case which is no longer needed at the Pioneers' Museum, and two smaller cases.

We have a rack to store pictures and flat objects on end, and cases to protect small items.

Joyce Johns and Lillian Ross, workers at the Pioneers' Museum, have supplied copies of accession forms which we'll adapt for our uses. They offered their services and advice when we begin the major task of processing museum memorabilia. Their help has been and is most valuable to O.C.C.H.S.

## Briefly:

Our vice president and program chairperson, Jan Knox, is 1987 president of the Genealogy Computer Study Group.

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Joanne Garrison has new responsibilities which will prevent her from attending our meetings regularly.

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Two O.C.C.H.S. members are officers with the Historical Society of the Pikes Peak Region. Joyce Johns is the new president; Frances E. Trapp is Secretary-Treasurer.

## State Historical Society Seeks

### Word of 100-year-old Farms

The Colorado Historical Society is searching for farms deserving a Centennial Farm Award, or recognition for historic farm structures. A plaque and certificate are given to those with farms of 160+ acres in the same family for a hundred years, or with buildings 50 years old. The Secretary has details.

## President's Letter

by Agnes Johnson

While the officers, board and members of the Old Colorado City Historical Society will be diligently pursuing their avocations during the month of February, I shall be touring Australia and New Zealand, hopefully without a care.

No, I am not going to the America Cup races at Perth. I prefer sailing the fiords of South Island.

The books of the past treasurer, Ralph Conner, have been audited and Orville Kenelly now has the records. More acquisitions have been obtained and squeezed into Ralph's storage area. Space is at a premium and we need to find larger quarters in the near future.

If you have any ideas or suggestions how the Society may participate with the merchants during Territory Days on Memorial Day weekend, please let Jan or Ralph know.

My thanks to Janis Knox for helping out during my tour.

I wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

## Miner Paraphernalia

### Donated to Museum

Orville Kenelly has donated three items for our museum.

Two are miner's baskets, sturdy metal containers in which the miner put clothing and personal effects. The baskets were usually hung out of the way. The 12"x18"x9" metal frame supports a metal mesh. With an inverted V-shaped handle, they're 21 inches high.

From the cowboy's realm is a frying pan, 20 inches in diameter plus a 25-inch handle. It would make work for the woodchoppers who stoke the fire and for a whole platoon of hens!

## EDITOR'S APOLOGY:

Page 3 "went to press" before an embarrassing error was caught. The man with the antlered elk was John ("Prairie Dog"), O'Byrne, not LaVergne. Mr. LaVergne was a real estate developer and mine owner who wouldn't demean himself in the way described. O'Byrne reveled in the flamboyance and notoriety the animals brought him, not only in Colorado City, but in Denver and Chicago, where he dressed as Santa Claus and rode behind the animals to advertise local merchants. He sold the pair for \$500 to Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show, and was later surprised to see them in a California opera company driven by an "Eskimo".

The editor thoughtlessly misunderstood Ms. Bueler and offers his apologies to her, and to the memory of Mr. LaVergne. For that matter, to Mr. O'Byrne!

## WEST WORD

Volume II, Number 7 February 13, 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 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 Lyn Owen, 473-1846. Deadline is normally the Wednesday before the meeting, although last-minute change 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 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 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

	Work:	Home:
President:	Agnes Johnson	633-8040
Vice President:	Jan Knox	495-3359
Secretary:	Ralph Conner	634-0895
Treasurer:	Orville Kenelly	473-5307
	Vera Chabon	634-27
	Dave Clark	473-3430
	Betsy Evans	634-1698
	Dave Hughes	636-2040
	John Keller	475-8634
	Aldine Lipe	476-1668
	Leon Young	633-2621
		633-1543

Luncheon Reservations—Lyn Owen—473-1846



# ***Napoleon to Bates, Region's Characters and History Are Colorful***

Colorful characters paraded before members of the Old Colorado City Historical Society Jan. 9th, as Gladys Bueler gave a well-honed view of the region's history.

Interest began in 1803, when a money-hungry Napoleon sold the U. S. all land France claimed in North America. Expeditions by Lewis and Clark, Zebulon Pike and Stephen Long explored what the U. S. had acquired in this Louisiana Purchase. Pike, on Nov. 15th, 1806, spotted Pikes Peak, and Dr. James in the Long expedition in 1820 was the first white man to climb it. Thirty-three peaks in the state are higher, but not one is better known.

A curious engineer calculated that Pikes Peak weighs 374,800,000 tons.

The Peak remained the "label" for the region during the trapper era, and when gold was discovered in Clear Creek, "Pikes Peak" was the goal of early wagon trains. The first included two women, one of whom—Julia Holmes—joined her husband (with supplies for five days) and hiked the Peak Aug. 1, 1858, to win general recognition as the first woman to make the climb.

The gold rush led to Colorado City's establishment, and encouraged Anthony Bott and others to dig a road up Ute Pass. In 1861 Colorado City was capital for a day of the new Colorado territory.

Jerome Wheeler came to the area after Aspen, contributed a bank and town clock to his beloved Manitou, and helped build a glass factory in Colorado City in 1889. This enterprise operated in the winter only, since it was too hot in summer to process glass. An explosion soon put the company out of business. All the company's bottles disappeared except one—now in the Pioneers' Museum.

Stormy progress of prohibition included the "Spirit Wheel" which dispensed liquor in Colorado Springs, contrary to Genl. Palmer's earnest restrictions. The Supreme Court ultimately upheld Palmer's limits on liquor sales.

The "wide open" nature of Colorado City led to another cast of characters, including Laura Belle and her friend, Prairie Dog LaVergne, who rode the streets behind two antlered elk. The City's drying up led to Ramona's brief existence.

Mrs. Bueler praised the recent Festival of Palmer as she described the general's contributions to the city. At 29 the youngest general in the Civil War, he came west for the Kansas-Pacific railroad and later established the Denver and Rio Grand. His letters to Queen Mellen are preserved, filled both with grand plans and loving comments. The couple honeymooned in a two story frame house,

## ***Area's Unique Character Forms Around Health Spa, Little London and Newport***

around which was later built Glen Eyrie "castle."

Mrs. Bueler suggested the region has three personalities.

As a health spa it attracted the International Typographical Union and the Modern Woodmen sanitarium. It also inspired a physician to invent a stick with three mirrors on it to get sunlight down the throat of the tubercular patient where it would do the most good!

A second personality was represented by Dr. William Bell, an investor who came west to see how his money was being used and who stayed to lead the social whirl of "Little London".

A third aspect of the region was called, by Marshall Sprague, the "Newport of the Rockies," which made society people willing to put up with the four days and three nights' journey to reach the local attractions, such as the Manitou Grand Caverns (where the guide played "Nearer My God to Thee" on the stalagmites), Rainbow Falls, and Seven Falls. After 1891 they could ride a cog train to the summit of Pikes Peak, thanks to Mr. Simmons (of the Simmons' mattress family) who disliked an uncomfortable burro ride up the Peak.

The 1891 discovery of gold in Cripple Creek was "the greatest thing that ever happened to Colorado Springs". Bob Womack's belief that there was gold was unconvincing for twelve years because, unlike goldfields with lodes, Peak gold permeated the granite that fell into the rim of an ancient volcano. The mills that processed this granite were important in Colorado City history.

In contrast to the ne'er-do-well cowboy, an important contributor to the region's riches was A. E. Carlton. He conceived and put through a tunnel to drain water from the mines and allow miners to dig down another 500 feet. If nothing else, this permitted the Cresson Mine to extend to the Crescent Vug, in which millions of dollars worth of gold was found in a "room" 18 by 30 feet.

Another event that focused national attention on the region was the 1893 visiting professor at Colorado College, Katherine Lee Bates, whose trip to the summit of the Peak inspired her to write the words to "America the Beautiful".

Mrs. Bueler described the reaction of one schoolboy to this song. After the teacher introduced it she told students to draw something it suggested. She was puzzled by the boy's picture of an airplane, lavishly hung with apples, oranges, and bananas. The boy was glad to explain: that was the "fruited plain."

## Would Westside Revival Awards Fit Early Date?

A suggestion came from the Westside Communications Council that O.C.C.H.S. might want to use Historic Preservation Week to recognize those who have improved property along Colorado Avenue.

The Society, in cooperation with the city, presents plaques to owners who have fixed up commercial or residential property. Last year, five families or individuals were recognized at the cabin in Bancroft Park on Aug. 16th, as part of an observance of Colorado City's Founders' Day. The event attracted TV and newspaper coverage.

We used the day to sign up "honorary citizens", to sell cookies and lemonade, and to display historic items from Colorado City's past.

The possibility was raised that Historic Preservation Week might be a more appropriate occasion. It falls in the second or third week in May—perhaps, May 10th to 16th this year.

Officers and board would like member reactions to the earlier date. In any case, give thought to homes or businesses that reflect credit on the community after being "fixed up".

Consider what activities we could undertake this summer to give the Society more "presence" and to raise funds for a museum.

### STATE MUSEUM'S NEW NAME:

"STATE HISTORY MUSEUM"!

The State Historical Society is fed up about confusion over "Colorado Heritage Center." Some thought it was a religious organization, others a hotel or shopping center.

Enough already! Tomorrow the museum officially becomes: "State History Museum."

## CALENDAR

Colorado State History Museum,  
13th and Broadway, Denver,  
Feb 16th. Free admission day.

**Historical Society of the Pikes  
Peak Region**, Tuesday, Feb.  
17th, at Garfield School, 332  
E. Willamette; at 7:30 p.m.  
**Joyce Johns** will speak on  
"Other Women."

**Ute Pass Historical Society**,  
Wednesday, Feb. 18, at the  
Museum, Cascade. 7 p.m. No  
details on program.

**Manitou Springs Historical So-  
ciety**, Feb. 22nd, at Miramont  
Castle, 3 p.m. No details on  
program.

**Audubon Hike**, Saturday, Feb.  
28, 1 p.m., led by **Martha  
Curry**, starting at 21st and  
Rio Grande. See page 6.

## Who Doesn't Like Wide Streets? Gen'l Palmer!

Everyone accepts that Colorado Springs' wide streets are one of its greatest assets, and Gen'l Palmer is greatly admired for his decision to lay out the city this way.

But there is an interesting quote from Palmer which suggests this was a "mistake," and that the "open space" might better have been used in parks.

His comment appears in the December, 1908, "Pioneer Edition" of the **El Paso County Democrat** (copy courtesy of **Dave Hughes**), and was originally made in 1896, when Colorado Springs was 25 years old.

"What lessons are suggested by this experience of twenty-five years? What could have been done differently to advantage?" Gen'l Palmer asks himself. And he answers, "Many things, no doubt. For one, I think with such a sunny, airy climate, the streets should have been narrower, and the land so saved put into more open spaces, apart from the thoroughfares."

## State Society Responds to Kay Arnold's Sand Creek Concerns

Ever since Kay Arnold researched the Sand Creek Massacre, visited the site, and reported at an O.C.C.H.S. meeting in February, 1985, on the mass killing of Indians, she has been disturbed that neither the road to the scene nor the Continental Divide were shown on the official highway map, and that signs near the site were confusing.

**Barbara Sudler**, president of the Colorado Historical Society, has written Ms. Arnold that the historical marker was re-worded and a new sign installed and dedicated last summer. The newest highway map includes the Continental Divide. She adds, the Sand Creek site isn't listed on the National Register of Historic Places because the landowner must initiate such registration.

Another point of confusion is that the Sand Creek Massacre occurred on Big Sandy creek.

Thank you, John Keller...

for use of your pickup truck  
in making several moves  
of museum materials.

## Pioneer Museum Archives Moved into "the Parlor"

Though it was in the basement of the Pioneers' Museum, the museum archives and library always seemed like an attic. In a former Justice of the Peace courtroom, it was virtually unchanged from its earlier use.

But everything's different now. It's still in the basement, but books, pictures, and documents are housed in an attractive "parlor-like" room, thanks to a private donation from the family of **James W. Starsmore**. Convenient tables are in place for researchers, and the collections are neatly housed.

**Mary Elizabeth Ruwell** is in charge of the archives.



## Budget Approved by Board Allots Total of \$7,740 Income toward Museum, Computer

Members of the Old Colorado City Historical Society Board of Directors set priorities for 1987 spending, based on figures from acting treasurer **Ralph Conner** regarding income and possible expenditures.

Thanks to the generosity of **Luther McKnight** and his family, the Society has greater income, and new responsibilities in caring for the large amount of memorabilia left by Mr. McKnight. The Society has also received museum items and display equipment from other sources. Most is stored in space loaned by **Ralph Conner**.

Two additions were made to tentative figures: on a motion by **Dave Hughes**, seconded by **Aldine Lipe**, \$2,400 was set aside for possible rent for storage or museum space; and \$1,000 was allocated on a motion from **Dave Hughes**, seconded by **Jan Knox**, to pay for professional help in applying for financial grants—an early step towards fund raising for a future museum building. To keep the total budget within limits of expected income, the contingency fund was reduced from the original amount of \$500 to \$260.00.

The budget was approved on a motion by **Orville Kenelly**, seconded by **Aldine Lipe**. Board members present were: **Ralph Conner**, **Betsy Evans**, **Dave Hughes**, **Agnes Johnson**, **Orville Kenelly**, **Jan Knox**, and **Aldine Lipe**.

No income was specifically earmarked for reinvestment, although some board members said they passed the budget on the assumption that not all funds would be spent as budgeted, and that money would be left in certificates of deposit to "compound" income from those sources. We hold certificates of deposit which mature in 1988 which pay 7% or 8.6% interest.

Items covered by the budget can be spent without additional authorization by the board.

The budget and anticipated 1987 income appear in the next column of this page. You're invited to contact any board member if you have comments.

### 1987 BUDGET

Lunches for guests	\$ 40.
Newsletter postage	200.
Paper & newslttr supplies	100.
Post office box rent	22.
Reincorporation fee	5.
Courtesy fund	10.
Awards and recognitions	50.
Photo duplication	100.
Preservation supplies	300.
Labor, transporation	50.
Contingency fund	240.
Glass, repairs (displays)	100.
"Legends" publication	250.
Acquisition forms	75.
Rent	2,400.
Grant "seed" help	1,000.

#### Computer-related

Computer	1,300.
Printer	300.
Standard Data Manager	250.
Modem, supplies, repairs	250.

#### Display-related

Insurance	500.
Labor, transporation	100.
Display mats, photos	100.
<b>Total budget</b>	<b>7,742.</b>

### INCOME ESTIMATE

American Fed. S&L (7%)	5,602.
World S&L (8.6%+)	1,338.
Checking acct. (4.5%)	438.
Memberships	300.
Fundraising efforts	65.
<b>Total est. income</b>	<b>7,743.</b>

### 1986 EXPENDITURES

Newsletter & othr postage	96.86
Stationery, off supplies*	36.57
Phone (reincorporation)	2.02
Post office box rental	22.00
Courtesy fund	79.13
Labor, trailer rental	82.99
Museum supplies	10.50
Col City plaque	267.00
<b>Total 1986 expend</b>	<b>597.07</b>

## First 'Annual' Audit Held As Fiscal Year Beginning

The treasurer's accounts were audited by a membership committee on Jan. 29th, and records and responsibilities of the treasurer's office were turned over to **Orville Kenelly**.

Present at the meeting were auditor/members **Ed Curry** and **John Keller**. Also present were president **Agnes Johnson**, treasurer **Orville Kenelly**, and secretary **Ralph Conner**. Books were checked against bank records and approved.

Secretary **Ralph Conner** had continued to serve as treasurer because the treasurer-elect, Mr. Kenelly, had drawn up the will of **Luther McKnight**, and if there had been a challenge to the will Mr. Kenelly would have had a conflict of interest as an officer of the Society. The probate is complete, and no dispute has arisen. The records approved were those kept by Mr. Conner.

It's the Society's first formal audit, though by-laws call for one each year. Officers indicate there'll be a check-up annually.

## Treasurer's Report:

### CURRENT (Checking)

Balance 1/5/87	511.85
NL and other postage	-9.46
Mail labels, glue sticks	-30.08
Labor (moving cabs)	-20.00
2 mo bank int. (-chgs)	+74.49
Balance 2/9/87	526.80
Endowment (unchngd)	106,959.52
	-RRC

## Plaque Now Restored

**Robert Patoni**, Redevelopment Program Manager for the city, says the plaque, supplied by O.C.C.H.S. and honoring Colorado City's designation as a historical district, is re-installed in "Brent's Alley" in the 2500 block of Colorado Ave. The plaque, firmly set, replaces a stolen one.

## O. C. C. H. S. Members

### Are Invited to Join Hike

History, hiking and bird-watching will be combined in an excursion along the Bear Creek Regional Horse Trail on Saturday, Feb. 28th at 1 p.m.

Old Colorado City Historical Society member **Martha Curry** will lead the hike under auspices of the Audubon Society, and she invites O.C.C.H.S. members to participate. Beginners are most welcome. If the weather is questionable the day of the hike, call Ms. Curry at 634-7303 after 9 a.m.

There'll be bird-watching on the way, and observation of historical sites. Meet at the parking lot at 21st and Rio Grande.

### Chilcott Reminds Members of Society's Name-Change Stand

**Carl Chilcott** reminded O.C.C.H.S. members at our January meeting of the Society's opposition to any change of name or emphasis for the Pioneers' Museum. He asked that our minutes reiterate the Society's stand, made in company with several other pioneer and historic groups.

## Visitors and Guests:

Twenty-two visitors came to hear **Gladys Bueler's** talk, including a group of Whittier students. Forty-three members and guests were present for the program and 25 stayed for lunch.

Non-members who attended the talk and the luncheon are:

**Kris Potter**  
**Nancy Janton**  
**Ellen Beaudin**  
**Janet Polley**  
**Beverly Johnson**  
**Selma R. Osterman**  
**Kurt A. Poulton.**

In addition, these visitors came only for the program:

**Elizabethe S. Mares**  
**Mary McPherson**  
**Palmer Cornell**  
**Faye Houston**  
**Opal Harding**  
**Mildred Ausec**  
**Jim H. Coakley**

**Barbara Carter** brought these students from Whittier School:

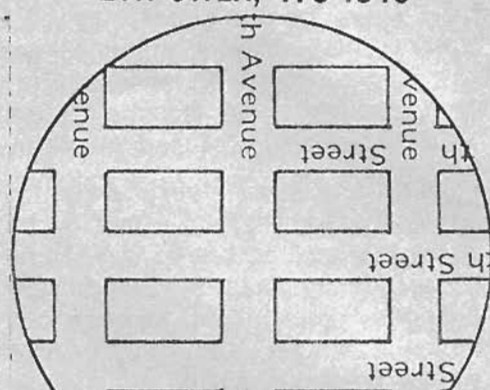
**Jenny Harris**  
**Ali Bannings**  
**Cindy Schilling**  
**Susan Paulson**  
**Kelly Hiatt**  
**Rosey Vidmar**  
**Heather Tyhurst**  
**Roxanne Struck**

## NEXT MEETING

# MARCH 13TH

### RESERVATIONS:

**LYN OWEN, 473-1846**



**HISTORIC SITE:** On February 5, 1873, **Ernest Burrsaddle**, pianist at a Colorado City bar who lived in the neighborhood shown on the map above, got into an argument with a customer about the nature of an F-seventh chord. Burrsaddle took a piece of chalk and hastily drew a musical clef on the floor and placed on it the four notes of the chord. This became famous locally as the **F A C E** on the barroom floor. It disappeared three years later when the floor was scrubbed in honor of Colorado statehood. — From *Little Known Milestones in Colorado History*, 1937.

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WEST WORD

2/13/87

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Post Office Box 6702

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80934