

January 9, 1984

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

Please add to your membership roster a Lifetime member, a representative of a long-time Westside family, and a former resident who is part of a fascinating "chain reaction."

Barbara J. Carter, a student and a teacher of Westside history, has a Life membership. 1630 Gardiner Rock Lane, 80906; 632-9585 or 520-2370.

Lewis H. Borst's family is known by all who bought meat or groceries in Colorado City. 214 N. 21st, 80904; 635-4742.

Lola Cooper Stone of Cottage Grove, Oregon, joins courtesy of **Harriett DeGeer Ford**, and that's story worth telling in detail.

First, **Stanley DeGeer**, of Albuquerque became a Life Member, then gave memberships to three brothers and a sister throughout the country. The sister, **Harriett DeGeer Ford** of Warsaw, Kentucky, added a new link in sponsoring a membership for Ms. Stone, "my dear friend from Junior High School Days."

Ms. Ford had interesting comments in her "nomination", some in response to **West Word** articles. The DeGeer family lived at 2010 W. Colorado. "How well I remember the summer street cars," she writes, "open, with rattan seats. What fun to ride to Manitou and stroll around and mingle with the tourists."

She's spreading the fame of the Old Colorado City Historical Society. She says, "I proudly carry my [membership] card. And I show each issue of **West Word** to members of 'Gallatin County Kentucky Historical Society'. They are duly impressed and

President's Letter

by Agnes Johnson

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership, the board, and the officers for their suggestions, help and support.

We have many challenges for the New Year.

The search for a museum or space; the cataloging and compiling of documents, the inventory of artifacts; the care and preservation of papers; increased research and oral histories; the conservation and wise use of Mr. McKnight's generous gift along with additional funds made available from the estate by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Atkins and other contributors; the study of grants that might be available as well as the acquisition of a computer either by purchase or gift; the possibility of an all-out fund raising; summer programs at the cabin in Bancroft Park are but the top of the list of goals and dreams. This opens up many opportunities for our members to take an active part in our dynamic future. If you want to be a part, contact me.

A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to Everyone.

even a little envious, or so it seems to me!"

Welcome, members; thanks to Ms. DeGeer Ford for her warm letter, and a salute to the DeGeers' "100% Membership".

We're proud to share memories and to serve as a "link to home". Know another absentee who'd welcome our newsletter?

Gladys Bueler Gives Our Program Today

Only since she "retired" has our speaker been a historian, but in 20 years she's gained an enviable reputation as an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker on the subject.

Gladys Bueler had varied careers as secretary to a newspaper publisher and a Colorado College president, as a television personality, a world traveler and European tour guide, and as writer.

Ms. Bueler first came to Colorado Springs in 1946, accepting the choice of her 12-year-old son who was attracted to "Pikes Peak"; she returned here in 1965 to retire.

It was in retirement that she first became interested in Colorado history in a class taught by **Inez Hunt** at the Univ. of Colorado in Colorado Springs. When Ms. Hunt became involved in other activities, Ms. Bueler took over the course.

When the nation's bi-centennial and the state's centennial occurred in 1976, she was so well established as a historian that she wrote a book, **Colorado's Colorful Characters** (headed towards its fourth printing), appeared as Colorado's representative on the "Today" network TV show, and made a series of Historical "Minutes" for KKTV.

Now aged 83, and 45 years a widow, she has "cut back" her activities by reducing the number of her grade school lectures!

"History is people," says Ms. Bueler, and her topic today is "Round and About the Pikes Peak Region."

Members Visit Old And New Westside

Old Colorado City Historical Society members saw the old and the new of "Old Town" family enterprises at their meeting Dec. 12, having lunch at Henri's Restaurant and touring the Simpich Character Dolls Shop.

The doll factory represents a new industry, covering two floors and two buildings. Visitors can watch workers as they craft miniature Christmas, fairy-tale, Victorian English people, or a host of angels. A marionette theater recently opened on the premises.

The dolls come as individuals or as sets, and are often offered in limited editions that may increase in value as collectors' items. The business grew out of Simpich family efforts to create personal Christmas gifts.

Henri's Restaurant is and always has been a business of the Ruiz family. Its food is genuinely south-of-the-border, and it's decorated in authentic Mexican style.

The family's pride in their enterprise is illustrated by the following statement:

"In the old country your reputation is built through many years of love and labor. Often the entire family is involved in the effort, and through this combination of family love and labor, a reputation is born. We feel this is our case. 'Henri's' was started in 1947 by the Ruiz family. Up to the present time the same family is still hard at their labor of love, to please you, our customer.

"When Henri and Ventura opened their doors to the public, they established the first Mexican restaurant in Colorado Springs. Now the third generation is carrying on the same old tradition."

Visitors and Guests:

Col. and Mrs. M. L. Baker paid another visit at our December meeting, attended by 28.

And we were pleased to have Gayle Evans as a visitor.

Bob Moore Becomes Ute Pass

Director as Jan Pettit Resigns

Long-time spark-plug of the Ute Pass Historical Society and Museum, Jan Pettit, has resigned as Executive Director, although she says her "commitment and heart" will remain with UPHS.

The Board chose Bob Moore, whose family traces back in Ute Pass to the turn of the century, as new Executive Director.

Society Joining Fund Request

To Reinforce Historic District

The Old Colorado City Historical Society joined the City's Community Development Department and six other organizations asking for support from the Center for Community Development Design to reinforce Old Colorado City's "Historic District" designation. The CCDD is affiliated with the University of Colorado.

The groups want to survey property owners to find how aware they are of our historic district designation, and enlist support in keeping that identity.

Bob Patoni, Program Manager, says the organizations are concerned that some building renovations are out of harmony with district character, threaten our historic recognition, and may affect investments and architectural resources.

Other participants are Old Colorado City Development Co., Concerned Westside Neighbors, Historic Property Alliance, Colorado Springs' Resources Advisory Board, Organization of Westside Neighbors, and Old Colorado City Merchants Association.

'Friends of Westside' Are Located in 21 Zip Areas

You may be surprised to learn that only about 40% of O.C.C.H.S. members receive their mail in zip code 80904 or 80934—the two Westside zips.

Membership has grown 22% to 76 in three months, and about 30 of that number are Westsiders; all others are in twenty other zips, including 8 that are out-of-state. Other Colorado zips represented among our membership are 80903, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 29, 63 and 66.

Two states boast two-member "chapters" of O.C.C.H.S. Frank J. DeGeer is in Bellevue, and Harriett DeGeer Ford lives in Warsaw, Kentucky. Long-time member Isabelle Mosley is in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and new-member Lola Cooper Stone lives 170 miles away in Cottage Grove.

WEST WORD

Volume II, Number 6 January 9, 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	634-0846
Treasurer:	Orville Kenelly	473-4737
	Vera Chambon	634-2
	Dave Clark	473-3430
	Betsy Evans	634-1698
	Dave Hughes	636-2040
	John Keller	475-8634
	Aldine Lipe	475-1658
	Leon Young	633-2621
		633-1543

Pros and Cons Listed for Pioneers' Museum's Possible Name Change

REASONS FOR:

1. There are at least 30 "Pioneer" museums in the United States, with three Eastern Colorado.
2. The present name does not adequately reflect the scope of the collections, which include anthropology, fine arts and natural science, as well as history. A broad range of exhibits and programs is offered in each of these areas. The roots of the Museum are in history and the culture of the Pikes Peak Region and these collections are continuing to grow; the Museum needs, however, to do contemporary collecting and to expand in the other areas mentioned as well.
3. The name suggests a small farmstead-type historic site rather than a growing municipal museum. Professional consultants have stressed the desirability of a name accurately reflecting the nature of our institution.
4. A less restrictive name could help in obtaining new collections and funds from public and private grant agencies.
5. The present name does not indicate the fact that the Museum is a city facility supported primarily by tax dollars. The image is often that of a private museum in which minorities and newcomers are sometimes reluctant to participate.
6. Our identification with the pioneers who built and contributed so much to the region will remain intact. The northeast quadrant of the Museum, featuring the exploration and early settlement (including farming, ranching and mining) of the Pikes Peak Region will be designated as the Pioneers Gallery. The list of early residents, now being updated, will be on display. The park surrounding the Museum is being renamed Pioneer Square.
7. The Museum has the potential of becoming one of the finest regional history museums in the United States, and a major tourist attraction. The name change could be a step toward helping it realize that potential.

Chairwoman of Museum's Board

Says We're 'Not Aware' of Issues; No Time Limit

Joyce Vogel, chairperson of the Pioneers' Museum's Board of Directors, has written our president, Agnes Johnson, expressing concern that people are "not aware of the pros and cons" of a change of name for the Museum. She enclosed a "fact sheet," which is reprinted on this page in response to her suggestion that it be given the widest possible circulation.

Daily newspaper reports seemed to say that the name change was no longer being actively discussed, but the fact sheet says that "no time limit" for a final decision has been set; presumably the Board is still seeking a "good" name.

FACT SHEET: PROPOSED MUSEUM NAME CHANGE

On September 11, 1986, the Pioneers' Museum Board voted to approve the concept of changing the name of the Museum, provided that a name can be found that is acceptable to the Board and to City Council. The Board had been studying a name change for one year, and no time limit has been set for a final decision.

Museum Mission Statement: To collect, preserve, research, exhibit and interpret historical and cultural objects related to the history of the City of Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Region; to use a full range of museum, archival, and educational programs and services to increase public awareness of our heritage; to enrich the cultural and intellectual lives of our citizens; and to encourage tourism in our region.

REASONS AGAINST:

1. The Museum had its inception with the founding of the El Paso County Pioneers' Association on August 3, 1896.
2. The Museum's identity goes back to the Gold Rush in 1859 when gold-seekers had as a slogan "Pikes Peak or Bust," since that peak was the first identifiable landmark seen from the plains. The Museum's heritage is more closely identified with Pikes Peak than with the City of Colorado Springs.
3. The first display of artifacts was in the El Paso County Courthouse (present site of the Museum) and remained there until 1937, when the City approved the Museum as a department and acquired the building on West Kiowa St. to house the Museum's artifacts. In 1978 the displays returned to their original site, now the Pioneers' Museum.
4. The area known as the Pikes Peak Region included Colorado City, which was a separate municipality, founded in 1859 (13 years before Colorado Springs) and Cripple Creek, which was part of El Paso County until 1899.
5. Pikes Peak is strongly identified with all of Colorado history. In 1860-61 three private mints operated to fulfill the gold needs of the time and all minted coins were struck with either "Pikes Peak" or "Pikes Peak Gold."
6. With the opening of the new Space Center, we are in a new phase of pioneering. Our museum and artifacts should reflect more than the City of Colorado Springs—it should represent the entire Pikes Peak Region. Should a name change be justified to identify our museum in a more definitive manner, we should not repudiate the dedicated effort and priceless contributions of the many who have gone before us.
7. The site upon which the Museum is located was originally known as South Park, then subsequently changed to Alamo Park. Recently the name was changed to Pioneer Park. Now it is even more appropriate that the Museum retain "Pioneer" in its name.

Know an Ailing Member? Tell 'Courtesy Secretary'

Besides her telephone duties, Lyn Owen has agreed to send to members, when appropriate, get-well, sympathy and other "courtesy" cards, on behalf of the Society. Please call Lyn at 475-1846 if you know of a member who deserves a friendly word from the membership.



NEXT MEETING
FEB. 13TH
RESERVATIONS:
LYN OWEN, 473-1846

G-T Leisuretime Adds O.C.C.H.S.

The Gazette-Telegraph now lists the president's and secretary's phone numbers under "Hobbies: History" section of Saturday's Leisuretime, for people interested in knowing more about the Old Colorado City Historical Society. The secretary asked for inclusion, at the suggestion of a member.

"Old Time" Music Live Next Meeting

It may reassure some members to know that when the **Fountain Creek String Band** plays at our February 13th meeting, they **WON'T** use any electric outlets!

Their instruments aren't electronically amplified, and while they occasionally use microphones, they won't even do that at our meeting.

The band was organized to supply music for square dances, and what they produce is strictly acoustic, old-time, and instrumental. **Sue Coulter** says they'll bring music that was current before the turn of the century, some of it about the time that Colorado City was established.

Other members of the band are **Gus and Naomi Reynolds** and **Peggy Mihelich**. They've been playing together five years.

We still can't be positive that we'll meet at Trinity Church, but if a change is necessary you'll be notified when you're called for reservations.

In any case, it promises to be a unique and entertaining program.

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WEST WORD

1/9/87

Old Colorado City Historical Society

Old Colorado City Historical Society
Post Office Box 6702
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80934

Treasurer's Report:

Our Endowment/Perpetuity Fund reported below includes an added Life membership, and quarterly interest on our certificates of deposit. The result is a growth of \$1,864.94 in our endowment fund.

CURRENT

Balance 12/14/86	511.31
Annual memberships	+15.00
Newsltr & other postage	-14.46
Bank interest (- chgs)	+41.33
Balance 1/5/87	567.64

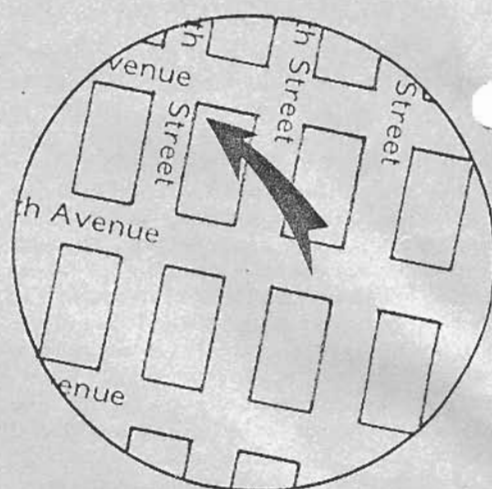
ENDOWMENT

Life membr+100.00	
Pikes Peak Nat'l Bal	11,465.00
4th q int +1,431.78	
Amer. Fed. S&L bal	80,027.86
4th qu int +333.16	
World S&L bal	15,466.66
Endowment balance	106,959.52

BOARD MEETS ON BUDGET

Agnes Johnson called a meeting of the Board prior to today's membership meeting to consider a 1987 budget, in view of the responsibilities and resources that O.C.C.H.S. now has.

It may be possible to report on results of that meeting today, and in next month's **West Word**.



HISTORIC SITE: Robert T. Ebbs, then 11 years old, on August 21, 1927, while walking home from Whittier School, found a key from the Royal Hotel of Kansas City, Kansas at the intersection marked on the above map of Colorado City. Since the key was marked, "Drop in any mailbox" Robert checked with his mother and then dropped the key in a mailbox on Colorado Avenue. Although Robert's claim was violently disputed by his older brother, Joe, this may be the first known incident of such a mailing in Colorado City. — From *Little Known Milestones in Colorado History*, 1937.

Opal Rutherford

924 W. Kiowa #301

Colorado Springs, CO. 80905