

March 13, 1987

Ute Pass Museum Plans Midland Railway Exhibit

1987 is the centennial of the Colorado Midland Railroad and the Ute Pass Historical Society is honoring the railroad whose shops and headquarters were in Colorado City.

Ceremonies at Woodland Park March 7th recognized former employees of the railroad and featured stories and music.

The Museum at Cascade will, on May 2nd, open an exhibit on the railroad, featuring the Midland Band and displaying papers and documents relating to the line, which linked the ore cities of Leadville and Cripple Creek to Colorado City mills.

Museum Executive Director **Bob Moore** says volunteers are working on a diorama, showing three miles of trackage up Ute Pass, from tunnel 7 to beyond the Cascade station, including the Ramona Hotel and Cascade House.

Mr. Moore welcomed the suggestion that a clarinet used in the Midland Band be loaned for the band display. The instrument is from the **Luther M. McKnight** collection of the Old Colorado City Historical Society, and will take its place with a drum, valve trombone and trumpet from other sources.

A hundred years ago this month, grading and tracking crews were pushing Midland rails through South Park towards Hartsel Ranch, and driving the German tunnel through. There was speculation, which was to end in disappointment, that the rails might reach Leadville by the Fourth of July.

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We welcome both local and out-of-town members this month, including an extension of the DeGeer family.

Stanley DeGeer says he and his wife hope to attend a meeting soon from Albuquerque, but in the meantime supplies memberships to his cousins, also former Westsiders:

Mary Brooks of Brighton, Colorado.

Helen Meinzer of Monte Vista, Colorado.

Raymond J. Hill of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

We're always pleased when a visitor decides to join, and welcome **Elizabeth S. Mares** of North Prospect street.

Darrell and Beverly Diehl have taken out a family membership. Ms. Diehl spearheaded the Palmer Centennial celebration for the region.

Manual on Building Exteriors Published

The New York Landmarks Conservancy has published a reference book on protecting, repairing and replacing building facades which might be of interest to local building owners. The State Historical Society identifies **Historic Building Facades: A Manual for Inspection and Rehabilitation** as the first of its kind, and says it's available for \$15 plus \$3 postage and handling from New York Landmarks Conservancy, 330 W. 42nd St., N.Y., N.Y., 10036.

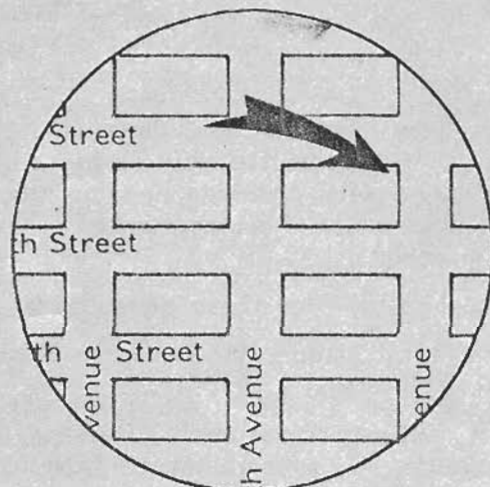
**NEXT MEETING
APRIL 10TH**

"History" of Water Is Poulton's Subject

In Colorado's early days, water was a natural resource that any settler might help himself to. In later years, the question of water rights became a vital one for farmers, industry and cities.

Curt A. Poulton will give us a case study of the use of water on Bear Creek, from the earliest establishment of Colorado City. He's hiked many of the region's early canals and has slides to illustrate much of the development.

He's working on a doctorate in historical geography with the University of Minnesota, expanding an interest that grew from his work as a design engineer of irrigation equipment.



HISTORIC SITE: The detail above from a map of Westside Colorado Springs was the exact spot where **Leslie Whittwood**, a clerk at Meyer's Drug Store, proposed marriage to **Livinia Lewis**. She declined his offer, and married someone else. Later, so did he. — From *Little Known Milestones in Colorado History*, 1937.

April Program Will Bring a History Day Demonstration

Historical Society members will hear one or more students from the annual "History Day" competition at our April 10th meeting.

Under guidance of Dr. Norman Bender of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, local students from sixth through 12th grades received six national awards in 1985 and 1986; since 1981 100 local contestants reached national competition.

About 300 students will perform or submit papers on the theme of "Liberty: Rights & Responsibilities in History" April 4 at UCCS, and state competition follows on April 18th.

We won't know until the meeting who'll make presentations, but we can count on dramatic and thoughtful performances by outstanding students.

Treasurer's Report:

March 13, 1987

ENDOWMENT

Balance reported 2/9/87	106,959.52
Balance reported 3/13/87	106,959.52

These funds are held in the following financial institutions:

1. American Federal Savings \$80,027.86
Maturity date 10/6/88
2. World Savings \$15,466.66
Eleven certificates with various maturity dates in June, July & October, 1988
3. Pikes Peak National Bank \$11,465.00
with no maturity date (combined with checking account in a business money market account)

Total of all 3 of these accounts is \$106,959.52

The total amount in American Federal Savings and World Savings is \$95,494.52.

All future Treasurer's Reports will show two balances: (1) a combined balance for the amounts in the certificate of deposit accounts with American Federal Savings and World Savings. As interest is credited to these two accounts by the institutions, it will be reported to the membership; (2) a single balance for the amount in Pikes Peak National bank which is our checking account. \$11,465.00 has been placed into that account from the endowment fund. This account earns interest and incurs a bank service charge each month. In addition, deposits are made to this account for dues and other in-

come of the Association and withdrawals are made for the expenses of the Association. It is this activity that will represent the bulk of each future treasurer's report to you. If additional endowment funds are received by the Association, they will be deposited to this account and reported to the membership. As of January 1, 1987, this business money market account was paying interest at the rate of 4.55% per annum. As of March 11, 1987, this business money market account was paying interest at the rate of 4.62% per annum. The Board of Directors may, from time to time, conclude that the Association could obtain a better rate on the endowment money in the Pikes Peak National Bank and direct the Treasurer to transfer some, if not all, of the current \$11,465.00 endowment balance to another institution. If that happens, that, too, will be reported to the membership.

CHECKING

Balance as of 2/9/87	\$526.80
Check No. 1041 Secretary of State (Copy of Articles of Inc.)	\$ 1.00
Check No. 1042 Trinity Methodist Church (Lunches)	\$40.00
Check No. 1043 Ralph Conner (Expenses)	\$93.41
Bank Service Charge	\$.30
Balance	\$392.09
Memberships:	
Stoney	\$10.00
Mares	\$ 5.00
DeGeer	\$15.00
Diehl	\$10.00
	\$ 40.00

February lunch
35 reservations @4.00 \$140.00
31 paid @4.00 \$124.00
3 Guests @4.00 12.00
1 no show @4.00 4.00
\$140.00

(\$140.00 paid to Trinity Methodist Church
—\$100.00 cash and Ck. No. 1042 \$40.00)

Receipts—\$124.00

\$100.00 cash paid to Trinity Meth. Ch. and balance deposited to checking account	\$ 24.00
Interest on Pikes Peak Nat'l Bank Acct.	\$ 42.84
Bal. in checking account as of 3/13/87	\$ 12,037.11
Balance in American Federal Savings and in World Savings as of 3/13/87	\$ 95,494.52
GRAND TOTAL AS OF 3/13/87	\$107,532.45

Westerners Hear Kenny Englert's Telling of the History of Ramona

EDITOR'S NOTE: March 9, 1987, members of the Colorado Springs "corral" of the Westerners organization met to hear the history of the town of Ramona from Kenny Englert, visiting here from his present home in California. This summary of his talk is printed with his permission.

"Demon Rum's" Last Gasp After Colorado City Votes Dry Finally Fizzles Out

From its inception, Colorado City was "wide open", but there were always elements who fought the city's "sin city" reputation. In 1909, an earnest fight between "wet" and "dry" elements began.

After six elections in six months, on April 4, 1911, dries won a single-vote victory. Wets contested the election in District Court, lost, and appealed. Until courts confirmed the election on Feb. 10, 1913—corrected to a THREE vote margin for the dries—Colorado City saloons continued to operate. But liquor elements heard the message and planned a new, wet town to be called Ramona.

With \$20,000 capitalization, on land owned by Frank Wolff, and with high hopes, saloon elements laid plans for a baseball team, a band, (eventually achieved); a race track and street car service (not accomplished). The privilege of serving liquor was won gloriously—for a few years before prohibition.

Colorado City tried to annex the Ramona area around 24th street, six blocks north of Colorado. But being dry cost Colorado City tax, fine and license revenue needed in the fight. The pro-saloon **Argus** of June 20, 1913, reported effects of the recession: Home Phone Company doomed, the telegraph office closed, and post office receipts so low that free delivery would end. Without money, the town's efforts to annex its upstart neighbor—led by City Attorney J. P. "Tiptoe" Jackson—made little progress. Mr. Jackson's chief ally was W. W. Woodward, who lived in the Ramona area and insisted on being annexed to Colorado City. Another ally was Jim Lacey, allegedly a bootlegger who didn't want competition. In any case, liquor was available near the Midland yards, past Colorado City jurisdiction.

For their part, saloon elements succeeded in getting a new election in Colorado City on Apr. 1, 1913, but this time they lost by 102 votes.

On July 29, 1913, Judge W. F. Kinney approved Ramona's petition, and appointed James Robert McReynolds, George F. Geiger and H. C. Thompson as commissioners until elections could be held.

Aug. 21, 1913, "residents" of Ramona voted 37-0 for their town, and trustees met to pass their first ordinance: authorizing the sale of liquor!

They set the clerk's salary at \$25, the one-man police department's pay (hours: 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.) at \$65 a month, and authorized one wholesale liquor dealer and not more than four retail outlets. They forbade gambling, declared no female could serve liquor or be in places where it was served.

A license to sell less than a gallon of liquor cost \$500; if you wished to sell more than a gallon, the license was \$250. Only residents were eligible. Ramona claimed authority to issue licenses within a one-mile radius; she didn't want another town duplicating her move!

The Council Record Book describes licensing difficulties. When an application for a fifth bar was received Nov. 20th the council deadlocked until the mayor broke the tie and granted the license. On Dec. 15th they issued an "exclusive" pool hall license; when a second application arrived April 14, 1914, they granted it, too.

On Aug. 19, 1914, when the Ramona Athletic Club submitted a \$1,000 check with an application to stage "sparring exhibitions", the check bounced. Later the club was approved, shared its building with the city and staged a number of fights.

The council's mood may be imagined when, Oct. 6, 1913, it ordered J. P. Jackson (Colorado City's attorney and Ramona's chief opponent) to "fix up" property he owned on 4th (24th) street. Dec. 15th it warned Henry Geising not to sell liquor to drunks, or let them go out alone into a snowstorm. Another bar owner was ordered to cover his cess-pool and install a ventilator on it.

Other problems were met resourcefully. Colorado Springs refused to supply water to Ramona businesses, so marshall Lennie Moats wheeled a portable water tank to Colorado City each evening and filled it at a fire hydrant. When the street car failed come to Ramona, a model-T Ford was enclosed with chicken-wire to relay passengers to Colorado Avenue for five cents.

As state and national prohibition loomed, Ramona quickly collapsed. By May 3, 1914, pay of city officials was suspended except for marshall Moats. In an election April 5th, 1921, only seven votes were cast. In March, 1946, officials met to dissolve the town. Citizens voted 46 to 4 in favor of dis-incorporation. In April, 1947, the county clerk declared Ramona "dead." Dec. 19, 1954, the area petitioned for annexation to Colorado Springs. But even after dissolution, unfinished business remained: the area kept a 5-mill levy for five years to pay \$400 in fees to Leon Snyder for conducting the town's legal "wake".



SEAL OF THE TOWN OF RAMONA
(Courtesy of William C. Henderson)

Happiness Is Fountain Creek Band Playing Courtin' Music

Jan Knox explained, introducing the Fountain Creek String Band Feb. 13th, that in days of limited social opportunities when the only music was "live," on those rare occasions when a man and a woman met, ANY music was "courtin' music."

Judging by the sample we heard, it was also happy, for Sue Coulter, Gus and Naomi Reynolds, and Peggy Mihelich brought good cheer in their old-time music.

Dr. Coulter supplied historic notes, explaining that the fiddle was the first instrument west, perhaps followed by the banjo. They were small, most likely homemade, and most music played on them is still with us.

The group plays on first and third Fridays for the Country Squires Square Dance group, 7:30 to 9:30 at First Christian Church. The musicians conceded they miss the "caller" when they play a "concert," because they don't know when to stop!

With roots among Blacks, Irish and Scots, the music covered a wide range: reels, schottisches, polkas, bluegrass, waltzes, the Varsoviana, some community singing, a touch of boogie-woogie and the Beer Barrel Polka, gave us a pleasing sample of happy music.

4

WEST WORD

3/13/87

Old Colorado City Historical Society

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

Atari Artists Invite OCCHS Participation in Competition

Joan Buday invited members of the Society to participate in the Atari Artists' ninth annual art show, as history critics and as "appreciators".

Entries will be displayed March 29th to April 12th at the gallery, 2425 W. Colorado. Judging by an artist from Buffalo will be March 29th. Cash prizes are awarded; competition is open to all.

WEST WORD

Volume II, Number 8

March 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.

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	471-0551	473-5307
	Vera Chambon		634-2840
	David Clark	473-3430	473-3941
	Betsy Evans	634-1698	598-2088
	David Hughes		636-2040
	John Keller		475-8634
	Aldine Lipe		475-1658
	Leon Young	633-2621	633-1543

Luncheon Reservations (Lyn Owen) 473-1846

The theme this year is General William J. Palmer, and those who create a historic scene are asked to document it. Ms. Buday suggested the Society might help critique the history.

Visitors and Guests:

We're pleased at another good turnout of visitors and guests on Feb. 13th.

O.C.C.H.S. member Opal Rutherford came with two visitors, Oliver Christianson and Margaret Anderson.

Arthur Leslie Schmidt was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Atkins.

Joyce O. Vail, sister member Bessie Hegg, visited from Boulder City, Nevada.

Bandmembers Naomi Reynolds, Guy Reynolds, and Susan Coulter joined us for lunch.

Others, some back for repeat visits, were Louise Baumgardner, Ellen Beaudin, Janet Polley and Curt Poulton