

Friday, November 13, 1987

## Historic Ranch Will Be December Topic

There are two special opportunities in December at the White House Ranch, the Park and Recreation Department's Living History museum on the Westside.

For one thing, there is a special welcome to those who will volunteer as guides, workers or performers this month and next; and, secondly, the special programs make White House Ranch an especially interesting place to visit in December.

At our next meeting, Dec. 11th at Trinity United Methodist Church, a spokesperson will describe the Ranch's history as a homestead (1860's), a working ranch (1890's), and an Estate (just after the turn of the century), and will acquaint us with the special opportunities as Christmas approaches.

(We were invited to volunteer at the October meeting; those interested should call Jan at Park and Recreation.)

## Trivia Question:

In downtown Colorado Springs alleys run north and south, so they intersect with Colorado Avenue. On the Westside, however, alleys generally run parallel to Colorado Avenue, so you can't enter Colorado from an alley.

There is at least one exception to that. Where on the Westside can you drive from an alley directly onto Colorado Avenue?

No prizes! Answer in next month's WestWord.

**NEXT MEETING:  
DECEMBER 11TH**

Reservations, Cancellations  
Lyn Owen: 473-1846

## Council Keeps 'Pioneer' In City Museum's Title

The Colorado Springs City Council decided Oct. 26th to keep "Pioneers" in the name of the city-run Museum. They indicated willingness to add "Colorado Springs"—a compromise acceptable to many of those who opposed a name change.

Council held two informal meetings in reaching its decision. Oct. 12th it heard discussion from both sides. Bill Henderson, Carl Chilcott, Lucile Ellis, and City Councilman Leon Young were O.C.C.H.S. members who offered opinions. Ralph Conner attended.

Eight council members present divided evenly between two points of view: one, to accept "Colorado Springs Pioneers' Museum"; the other to change to "Colorado Springs' Heritage Museum" as a majority of the museum board recommended.

The proposed change stirred opposition from those who considered a new name to be "tampering with tradition", as indicated by a poll of some members of the Friends of the Pioneers' Museum who favored the original name two-to-one. A radio-station call-in program had better than 90% of the callers favoring no change.

Councilman Bruce Shepard, absent Oct. 12, after listening to a tape of the discussion, said Oct. 26 that he preferred "Pioneers" in the title, thus assuring acceptance of "Colorado Springs Pioneers' Museum". A formal vote will be taken later.

Please let Lyn Owen know (473-1846) of anyone under the weather or otherwise needing a friendly word.

## Music and Dance Spread Good Cheer

The Fountain Creek String Band is back today for its second appearance, this time with caller Mel Folsom and dancers from the Country Squires.

Mr. Folsom will supply some historical background to the dances, which will be demonstrated to the music of the band.

Bandmembers are Sue Coulter, and Naomi and Gus Reynolds. Fiddler Peggy Mihelich has moved to Gunnison and is no longer with the band. Their appearance Feb. 13th was a popular program and we welcome them back.

(Vice-president Jan Knox has offered to cover meals for the unusually large number of guests, but members who wish to are invited to make a small extra contribution toward the meals.)

## SECRETARY'S EXPENSES

7/25 Trailer rental (move LMCK's items to storage)	15.30
9/3 100 newsletters pstg	22.00
9/14 Misc. postage	1.05
9/24 & 28, 72 newsletters	15.84
10/9 Guest luncheon	4.00
10/14 72 newsletters	15.84
10/19, 20 & 23, postage	3.42
TOTAL expenses to 11/9	77.45
Minus 7/8 overpayment	-31.00
Balance due secretary	46.45

## UTE PASS TASTES COOKIES

The Ute Pass Historical Society holds its membership meeting at 7 pm on Nov. 18th, with an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping and sample cookies from exotic places. The Christmas display will be up, and the "Bazaar" open. The Museum's open to the public Saturdays and Sundays 10-5, through Dec. 20th.

# Westside Memories: Turning Back the Clock on Local Events

## Twenty-five Years Ago

December, 1962

Pikes Peak Bank of Commerce, 2418 W. Colorado, won approval to become a national bank and (in January, after a stockholders' vote) to change its name to Pikes Peak National—first national charter in the area in fifty years. Officers: W. L. Liggett, pres.; William C. Henderson, vice pres.; H. O. Robertson, cashier; M. J. Griffin, asst. vice pres.; H. N. Sheer, W. Haskin, asst. cashiers.

Teamsters Union optioned land west of Eighth St. for a Y-shaped, 12-story apartment building that would become the city's highest structure. It would have 435 buffet, one and two-bedroom unfurnished apartments for people over 65. Rents would start at \$65 including heat, light and water.

KCMS broadcast the midnight mass of Sacred Heart Church. Pastor Father J. Nicholas preached; the choir was directed by Mrs. A. Savage, accompanied by Madeleine Schaeffer at the organ; and there was a duet by Miss Schaeffer and violinist Margaret Smith.

Chancel, Youth and Children's choirs of Trinity Methodist, in new robes of turquoise and gold, presented a program under Betty Russell's direction, Jessie Atkinson at the organ.

Retired policeman Albert Peterson, 1517 W. Kiowa, again won top honors in the Jaycee Xmas lighting contest.

Olga M. Pratt asked Board of Adjustment permission to build a 50-bed nursing home at 824 W. Kiowa.

Goodwill announced a retail outlet would be opened at 2307 W. Colorado.

E & E Ambulance added wheelchair service and a second floor to its office at 410 W. Bijou.

## Fifty Years Ago

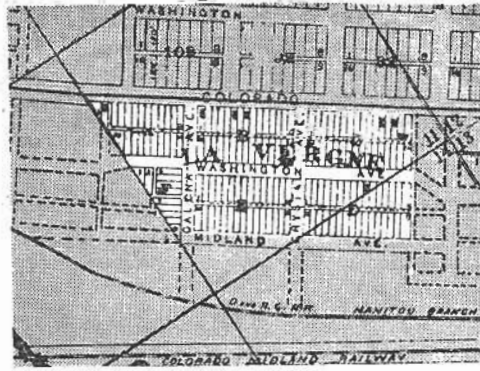
December, 1937

This month there were 1,897 old-age pensioners—largest "payroll" in the county. In November, with 1,787 pensioners, payments were over \$73,000.

West Side Commercial Club had 73 members.

Both 24th and 26th streets had Christmas decorations for the first time: garlands, and electric lights. Also for the first time, music was played over loudspeakers at 25th and Colorado.

Among special Christmas displays: miniature house built by W. J. Crook, and fireplace with a Tabby cat with blinking eyes created by H. E. Webb, both in the window of Newton Lumber. Cross and Son had a band composed of Mickey Mouse and his friends, and Popeye the Sailor riding a horse.



LaVerne on 1889 map.

Modern street names: Crystal=17th St.; Galena=18th. Washington=Cucharas (there was another Washington St. two blocks north); Midland=Vermijo. Dotted lines show modern streets and alleys.

County Clerk Charles Ozias had on hand 17,400 1938 license plates for cars, and 1,400 for trucks—white numbers on a green background.

Four hundred visitors attended West Junior's "night school." School dismissed early and students and parents returned at 7:30 for regular classes.

Sixty stitches were needed to treat injuries of Mrs. E. R. Ripley, who caught her hand in the wringer of a washing machine.

C. T. Cronkite received a permit for improvements to Grand View Lodge, 3212 W. Colorado.

## Seventy-five Years Ago

December, 1912

Midland Railroad passed into receivership at midnight, Dec. 13th. For the last four or five years, the road was "manipulated rather for the best interests of the two other roads owning the stock of the Midland, the C & S and D & R G" says the Iris.

Waycott Building's third floor was rented for high school athletics, especially for basketball and indoor baseball. Other indoor baseball teams were Colorado Springs High School Annex, the Deaf and Blind Institute, and the Boys Club of Colorado Springs.

Colorado City Postmaster John F. Morgan advised that post office box rents would be reduced 25¢ Jan. 1st.

Woman's Rest Room Association distributed 45 baskets to the poor, each with groceries worth \$2.75.

Forty men from three "parties" were nominated for the Charter Convention election to be held Jan. 7th. Twenty-one were to be chosen.

Whittier raised \$21.40 for its athletic fund by charging 10¢ admission to their Christmas program. Students entertained in the eighth grade room. In the sixth grade room were a Victrola concert, and Christmas motion pictures shown on an Edison kinoscope.

Advertisement: Kellogg, carpenter, 105 Manitou Road, Colorado City, wants job work, 25¢ an hour.

Midland shop employees were given the afternoon off on Dec. 24th.

## One Hundred Years Ago

December, 1887

Lots in LaVerne went on sale Dec. 29th, and 13 were bought immediately. When all were sold, a drawing would determine which lot each ticket-holder owned. To add excitement, cottages were built on two lots.

Carpentry work on the Methodist church on Colorado was to be finished by Christmas week. It was 50 feet long, 28 wide, would seat 200, and had eight large windows. W. P. Rhodes bought a pulpit and pews in Denver. Finished building was to cost \$2,000.

W. J. Foster incorporated a town he planned 5 miles north of Cascade, to be called Green Mountain Falls.

El Paso Electric considered expanding lighting capacity. Forty lights were in use, and the dynamo could produce power for 10 to 12 more. The Manitou Electric Light Company proved unreliable because water powering its generators froze and choked the wheels.

Colorado Midland began passenger service to Glenwood Springs on the first. Trains left Colorado Springs at 12:25 am and arrived in Aspen at 1:16 pm and Glenwood Springs at 2:45 pm.

Marriage licenses were issued to James Layfield and Louise Nicholson of Colorado City; and to A. W. Nixon of Denver and Miss A. C. Ames of Colorado City.

Stewart Cement and Stucco Company added to its factory.

The Street Railway Company had a year's franchise to lay a single track between Colorado Springs and Colorado City, with necessary turn-outs. They might extend rails to Cheyenne Canon where cottages were being built.

The Colorado City News complained that owners of six gambling establishments in Colorado Springs should have been indicted just as surely as were the owners of two gaming establishments in Colorado City.

A jury gave the Manitou Grand Caverns to Mr. Snider, deciding they were in Snider's Sec. 31, not in Sec. 32 jointly owned by Snider and Rhinehart.

County Commissioners ordered road overseer James Starr to level hills at Camp Creek and Gen'l Adams' home.

Frank Evans and Thomas Lynch were arrested in Colorado City, accused of stealing two pairs of pants from D. W. Robbins' store in Colo. Springs. Each was fined \$25 and costs, and sentenced to ten days in jail.



## Maps Show Earliest Water Development

At our meeting of March 13, 1987, Curt Poulton traced the history of water rights on Bear Creek. (WestWord, Apr. 10, 1987) He made available a copy of a paper he presented to members of the Association of American Geographers shortly after his O. C.C.H.S. program, with maps similar to those he projected for us, in a form we can reproduce. Our thanks to Mr. Poulton for making the maps available to let us elaborate on our earlier summary, and apologies to him for modifications and re-drawings.

Fig. 1 shows Bear Creek in relation to Colorado City. This map, and the one in fig. 2, identifies 21st St. and W. Rio Grande. Both "roads" existed in early 1900's, though they didn't have those names. We identified them make it easier to orient the map. Argus is also shown, but did not exist until recently.

Zelotes Root claimed the 160 acres marked "1" and "2" and dug the first irrigation ditch. After Root abandoned his claim it was taken over by Henry Templeton.

The 160 acres marked "3" were claimed in November, 1861,



Fig. 1

by John W. Rice, who sold it (for \$335) to Thomas Clarkson White.

Fig. 3 pictures the same area as fig. 2, and shows the earliest irrigation ditches.

The ditch labeled "White and Templeton", also known as "Number One" and "County Farm Ditch," was dug by Root and White, and held first priority on Bear Creek water.

Poulton concludes that White bought and farmed the Rice land for 12 years, but the Templeton land was leased to Oscar L. Mathews in 1863. Mathews constructed the second-priority ditch (north in fig. 3). Later he bought area 1, plus ten acres from the northern tip of parcel 2. Tem-

pleton sold the remaining 70 acres of parcel 2 to Robert F. Love.

William Howbert owned a quarter-section east of White's. He and Courtenay E. Wellesley built the Wellesley and Howbert ditch (priority 3) in 1866. Wellesley joined Charles E. Fisher in a fourth-priority ditch. Poulton says it's impossible to determine where these two ditches went.

There is considerably more to the history as researched by Mr. Poulton, but the irony in the earliest history as summarized here is shown in the amount of water claimed for each ditch:

Priority	Ditch	Flow claimed*
1	White and Templeton	8
2	Mathews	5
3	Wellesley and Howbert	6
4	Wellesley and Fisher	8

(\*cubic feet per second)

This means that 27 cubic feet per second of flow was claimed. But Bear Creek averages only 2.37 cubic feet/second during the irrigation season (1.78 for the whole year). Poulton concludes, "There is little likelihood that the three junior appropriators reflected in this list received any water when the Number One Ditch was diverting its decreed amount."

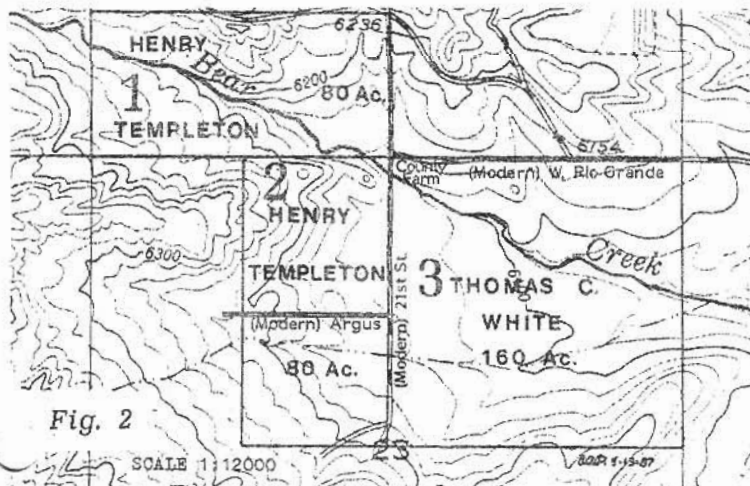


Fig. 2

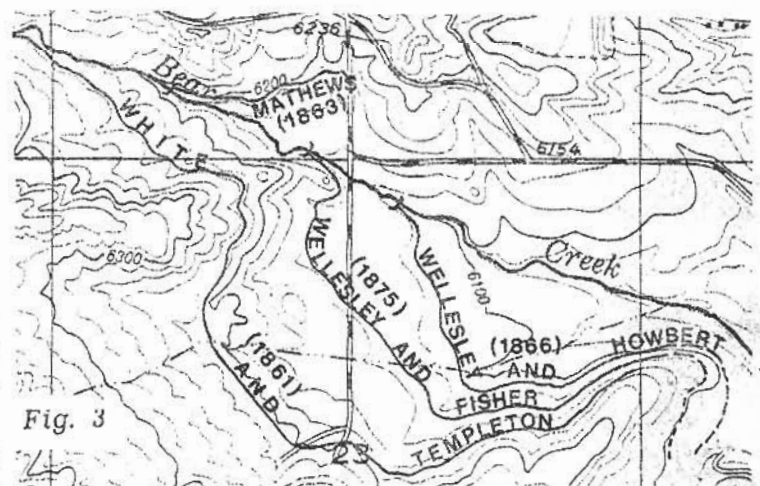


Fig. 3

# Professional Photographer's Eye, Turned to Region's Beauty, Brightens October Meeting

Photographer Stewart Green covered familiar ground at our October 9th meeting, but the views were fresh and surprising.

We all know downtown Colorado Springs, but few of us have seen it in the setting captured by Green's professional photographer's eye: with lightning or fireworks making colorful patterns, a rainbow's gentle arc, or dramatic clouds framing Pikes Peak.

Green created two editions of "Pikes Peak Country" which cover the region in text and picture. The books include some color plates, but we were given a broad palette of color through slides.

His skills touched such common items as wild flowers or aspens, and the rarer spectacular sunrise or sunset. Old Colorado City was there, as were the Gold Camp

## Briefly...

We acknowledge a change of address for Margaret Bofenkamp, and we're sorry she won't be attending our meetings. She moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon, where her sister Isabelle Mosley is a loyal member. We were pleased to have both of them present at our May meeting.

Stan and Eloise DeGeer hosted a DeGeer family reunion in Albuquerque in October. The DeGeers represent the largest family contingent in O.C.C.H.S. They lived at 2010 W. Colorado.

We appreciate inclusion of O.C.C.H.S. in the newsletter list from Cedarwood Health Care Center among those who helped make their activities program a success. Any help we gave was our pleasure!

Road, North Cheyenne Canon, Palmer Park, Garden of the Gods, Balanced Rock, Broadmoor, Pioneers' Museum, Monument Valley Park and Cave of the Winds; and more distant views, such as Canon City, Cripple Creek, the plains, and Eleven Mile Canon. He captured events like the Christmas Tree downtown, Armed Forces Day, Rodeo, Rock Climbing and the Zoo.

His artistic touch reflects his work for such groups as the Sierra Club. He's a Colorado Springs native.

Some members bought copies of his books, and he generously helped the Old Colorado City Historical Society by splitting each purchase price, adding \$36.15 to our treasury. His books are sold at Kinnikinnik Book Store and others.

## WEST WORD

Friday, November 13, 1987

Vol. III, Number 4

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 Hendersen—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 is \$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

	Work:	Home:
President:	John Keller	475-8634
Vice President:	Jan Knox	495-3559
Secretary:	Ralph Conner	634-0895
Treasurer:	Orville Kenelly	471-0551 473-5307
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	Virginia Cox	635-8705
	David Hughes	636-2040
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	Leon Young	633-2621 633-1543

Luncheon Reservations (Lyn Owen) 473-1846

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