

Friday, Oct. 9, 1987

Glasstown Is Next Program's Subject

Vice president and program chairperson Jan Knox announces that our November program will familiarize us with an important early Westside business.

Products of the Glass Factory are the most enduring from our local industries. The factory's main function was bottle-making, but its skilled workers also crafted art items, a few of which are still around. Far more common are globules of glass which littered the factory grounds as discards or by-products of fires and accidents. Many Westside homes have (or had) a shapeless, solid glass droplet on mantle or table.

This historic chapter is the topic November 13, as Brenda Hawley gives us results of her research on the Glass Factory which operated on Colorado City's southside before the turn of the century.

Ms. Hawley is Assistant Director of Technical Services at Penrose Library, but she worked seven years in local history and was intrigued by photographs of the Westside, including one of the Glassworks. She is a bottle collector, and a member of the Westerners and Ghost Town Club of Colorado Springs, which encourage members to carry out research.

Who deserves A GOOD WORD?

Help us keep in touch with our members facing illness or difficulties. Phone Lyn Owen, 473-1846, and let her send a kind word on behalf of all O.C.C.H.S. members.

Informal Council Meet Monday Discusses New Museum Name

An informal City Council meeting was scheduled Monday (Oct. 12) to consider if a new name for the Pioneers' Museum should be on the Council agenda.

The museum board proposes a change of name to the "Colorado Springs Heritage Museum".

O.C.C.H.S. members Carl Chilcott and William Henderson were to speak in opposition.

Meanwhile, on a motion at our September meeting by Ed Curry, seconded by Barbara Keller, we sent this letter:

Mayor Robert M. Isaac and
Members of the City Council
30 S. Nevada
Colorado Springs, CO. 80902

Dear Mr. Isaac and Council members:

I first wrote in January, 1986, to express the opposition of most members of the Old Colorado City Historical Society to re-naming the Pioneers' Museum.

We feel the community has an obligation to the earliest settlers to reflect the dozen years before Colorado Springs was established when many communities and school districts were formed, and to others who have since aided the region's progress. It is these who might lose their identities; no one is likely to forget "Colorado Springs." We recognize the city's valuable contribution to the Museum's present operation, your efforts to preserve the old court house, your initiative in passing the historic preservation ordinance; we hope you show the same spirit in protecting the museum as the symbol of the roots of all of us.

At a time of fiscal restraint, there is benefit in limiting the museum to its historic mission. Unlike insurance, security, transportation and rental expenses of "foreign" exhibits, there is relatively little cost in protecting and exhibiting the artifacts, most often donated, from descendants of those pioneers.

At our meeting September 11th we again discussed these issues, and the question of whether we were "unprofessional" or "unethical" in criticizing actions of another museum board. I am writing to express the consensus of members who have expressed an opinion, at a meeting or by mail, who still feel Pioneers' Museum is the name which best identifies the proper scope of the city's museum and reflects the pride of early settlers and modern residents in our historic heritage.

Sincerely,
Ralph Conner
Secretary

September 14, 1987

Stewart Green Sees Pikes Peak Country

Stewart M. Green, photographer and author of "Pikes Peak Country," will talk about local attractions and show slides at our meeting Oct. 9th.

His book is not primarily a "picture" publication, although many of his photographs appear in it. His pictures have also appeared in national publications. He'll have copies for those interested in buying one; it's also available at the Kinnikinnick Book Store and others.

One section of the book deals with historic "sights" worth visiting. The jacket says it's a "companion for discovering and exploring the Pikes Peak region's hidden treasures, pleasures and places." Green is a Colorado Springs native.

(The "Hats" program with Esther Wickard, originally scheduled for today, had to be postponed and will probably be presented at a later date.)

We'll Reissue Life Membership Cards

By-laws call for our membership cards to be numbered. Since we issue new cards each year, there's no significance to the numbers, although new cards prepared by the secretary, and issued to some current members, are numbered, starting at 1000.

However, in the case of Life Members, there is significance in the order of the sign-ups. We have a total of fifteen now, and as soon as new, numbered cards are printed, they will be issued to life members in the order in which they signed up. Life members each contributed \$100 to our endowment fund.

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

Twenty-five Years Ago

November, 1937

Truman Hermanson announced plans to develop 85 homesites in the former Chautauqua ground south of the Garden of the Gods. The National Chautauqua Association bought 40 acres about 1890 and held a few summer sessions, and in 1902 it was platted for homesites but never developed. So the land remained almost untouched. The subdivision was bounded by Ridge Road (e), Pikes Peak (s), Columbia (w) and Garden of the Gods Road (n).

Goodwill expected to move from 19½ W. Cucharras to the former F&L Food Products building at 2307 W. Colorado by Christmas. Nalley's bought F&L and established potato chip sales and warehouse facilities in Holland Park.

Guy McCullough, representing Westside merchants, asked City Council to keep Colorado Ave. as highway 24, and label the east-west freeway a by-pass. Council agreed, although the State Highway Department has final say.

The Colorado Springs Coin Club, which meets twice monthly upstairs in the MerriLaine restaurant at 2411 W. Colorado, donated coins from the Philadelphia and Denver mints for the cornerstone of the new police building.

Rev. F. O. Seamans, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, formerly of 1322 W. Pikes Peak, died at 93.

Mayor William Henderson swore in Thomas County, 22 N. Limit, to bring the fire department to full strength: 95.

Fifty Years Ago

November, 1937

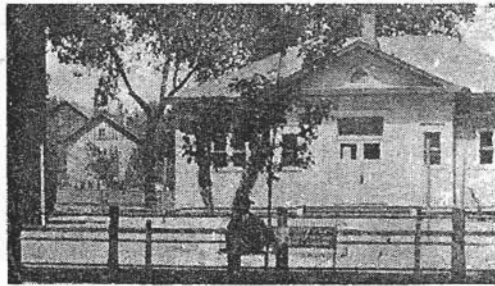
V. I. (Irving) Morriss, formerly of 1202 W. Pikes Peak, supervised construction and operation of a beet-slicing plant in Hardin, Mont., for Holly Sugar.

The Hallowe'en party at Mack's Hall was the first Community Center event sponsored by Westside Commercial Club. Party organizer Mary DeLong was assisted by Ralph Schweikhardt and Rev. Nelson Wurgler of Trinity Methodist.

Dancing Saturday at 8 p.m., Mack's hall, with W. P. A. orchestra.

West Side Commercial Club president Weeden named D. A. Nichols, George G. McDonald, Luther Ascough and Ben Hamilton to supervise Christmas decorations on Colorado Ave. at 24th, 25th and 26th. Poles must be erected each year since the street car line removed poles and wires.

West Junior coat-hanger contest was a tie between Mrs. Sprenger's and Mrs. Aspen's homerooms, which collected 3,000 hangers. Their students were rewarded with ice cream.



High School "Annex," northeast corner Bancroft Park, beside Bancroft School.

Grace Krug, West Junior student with poliomyelitis, was much improved: no longer quarantined, and with no need for an iron lung.

Among Westside births this month: boy and girl twins to Mr. and Mrs. Claude Norman, 2418 W. St. Vrain; daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Perkins, 212 S. 14th St.; sons to Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. Palmer, 1628 W. Kiowa; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wilbur, 20 S. 24th; Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Huth, 2306 W. Platte; Mr. and Mrs. Gerland Lenig, 1108 W. Colorado.

Seventy-five Years Ago

November, 1912

Colorado City voters supported 631-404 adoption of a charter/commission form of government. A charter convention will be elected in January.

Sophomores entertained the high school in K. of P. hall for Hallowe'en.

Church of the Brethern, which has been meeting in the W.C.T.U. hall, broke ground for a brick building costing \$8,000 at the southeast corner of Second and Jefferson. St. Mary's Catholic church bought a lot on the southeast corner of Third and Colorado where it plans a \$12,000 brick building.

Colorado City High and the Grocery Clerks teams played football on the First Street field.

J. W. Barnes, proprietor of Colorado City Furniture, was seriously injured but expected to recover after his team ran away and threw him from the wagon onto his head and shoulders.

An auto from Manitou struck Dr. G. B. Gilmore's car in the 1700 block of W. Colorado, shoved it against the curb, threw Mrs. Gilmore and two girls out of the auto and injured them. Four of the five men in the Manitou car were also injured. Passengers and crew of a west-bound streetcar witnessed the collision and supplied details.

Emil Schmidke and W. J. Snider rehearsed a new band in City Hall.

The county bridge on El Paso near Schlessinger Brick Yards caught fire from burning weeds and was partially destroyed.

One Hundred Years Ago

November, 1887

Street railway began in Colorado Springs with two cars and 18 horses. Cars came every twenty minutes, but would arrive every ten when more cars arrived. Patronage was 350-500 a day. Officials wouldn't expand to Colorado City until Colorado Ave. was improved and merchants helped with financing.

Fare was 5¢, or 12 tokens for 50¢. A "graft" began when men rode the car all day, gallantly taking the nickel from women passengers, but replacing the nickel with a token, making a penny for each fare they "assisted."

El Paso Electric Company wired several Colorado City stores so there'd be no delay when the circuit was completed to Colorado City late in the month.

Midland began carrying mail to Colorado Springs, Colorado City, Manitou, Cascade, Summit Park, Florissant, Hartsel, Buena Vista, Granite, and Leadville.

J. P. Rohman had "The Midland" resort re-papered and fitted up.

Dr. R. S. Briscoe was issued a medical license by the state board.

Four wagonloads of Mormons passed through, going from Arkansas to Utah.

Two new Midland engines, larger and more powerful than any of 26 on hand, were put on night passenger service between Colorado Springs and Leadville.

Alvin Stump worked 35 men at a saw mill near Florissant turning out 11,000 feet of lumber daily. He expected to open a lumber yard in Colorado City.

W. J. Stahl of Stump's crew died after he slipped from a load of lumber and fell under his wagon's wheels.

At 4 a.m., while visiting saloons, Dan Harrington was beaten by three men who took his gold watch and chain and \$3. His assailants were found in another bar where one boasted they had "done a man up." Their clothing was bloody and they had the watch and chain.

Buchanan and Kirk, who furnished ties for the Midland, were to supply 50,000 posts for fences to protect the road from losses due to dead livestock.

Patrick Canty, a stone-mason, was found guilty of trying to blow up Meyers bakery because he hadn't been paid for an oven he built.

Rumors that a grand jury would indict gamblers and gambling-house keepers caused such intense feelings against those who testified that Dist. Attny. Libby announced that ex-City Marshall VanMeter was NOT responsible for the indictments, and "no man gave any testimony concerning such matters without having same dragged from him by most persistent questioning."

Ute Pass Museum Spokesmen Give Words Of Caution, But Show the Way to Success

Bob Moore, executive director of the Ute Pass Museum, began his briefing by quoting the one-word advice of Jan Pettit, former head and prime mover of the operation, about starting a museum: "Don't".

But despite pit-falls and problems, he and Rex Archer showed how it could be done as they talked to O.C.C.H.S. members at our meeting in Cascade Sept. 11.

The nucleus of Ute Pass Historical Society formed about 1976 around Jan Pettit and Dorothy Kahn. Between one and two dozen members first carried on a series of community service projects, restoring the gazebo in Green Mountain Falls and markers on the Ute Pass Indian trail.

Finally, in 1981, after many months of preparation, a museum opened in the former office of the Brockhurst riding stable—a bare 400 square feet. Volunteers got valuable experience in lighting and exhibit design.

In July, 1984, the opportunity arose to buy a sourdough bakery beside highway 24. They bought it, acquiring tons of useless material and a \$61,000 debt.

On June 15, 1985, a small but sophisticated museum opened, touching all phases of local history but giving special attention to Ute Indians, the Pikes Peak Hill Climb, and Colorado Midland and Midland Terminal railroads. After the briefing by Moore and Rex Archer, O.C.C.H.S. members took a conducted tour of the museum.

Four donations of \$20,000 and thousands of volunteer hours helped to establish the museum, and to unite Ute Pass support. With that background, the briefing had practical meaning to O. C. C. H. S. members hoping to

make the same moves someday.

Not surprisingly, many

suggestions dealt with finance. The Ideal, said Archer, is to have the building free and clear. "People don't like to give money for mortgages," he said.

Expenses, including mortgage payments, average \$5,000 a month—which is about what the museum makes from admissions for the whole year. The annual budget is \$62,000 to \$63,000.

Other sources of income are:

- \$6,000 annually from the gift shop.

- About \$9,000 from around 550 individual or family memberships.

- Because most needs are immediate, the only endowment is about \$7,000, which produces a few hundred dollars income.

- Corporate, professional and government grants, usually given for specific projects.

- One-time gifts from supporters.

One way the Ute Pass Museum is unique: personnel costs are minimal. Besides Moore, the only paid help is a half-time secretary. As a result, salaries account for 25% of the budget, compared with well over half in more "professional" museums. Secret is the volunteers who have special talents or develop them to meet museum needs.

For example, they haven't relied on professional help to get grants, but a board member developed expertise in this field.

They currently have a \$9,000 federal grant to improve storage areas on the lower floor. A rule of thumb, Moore said, is to have as much storage space as display space; that only a fourth to a

Special word of thanks:

Admission for the 26 members present at the September meeting was paid by Vice President and Program Chairperson Jan Knox. On behalf of the membership, thanks Jan.

as much storage space as display space; that only a fourth to a third of your collection will be on display at any one time.

The Ute Pass Museum has about 38 cubic feet of manuscripts, which aren't easily accessible. They're working on a grant to help that situation.

One money-saving move: the bakery came with a supply of yellow paint which originally decorated it. Although slightly embarrassed at its immodesty, the Society used it, both to take advantage of the supply and to avoid the problems of covering up the original vivid hue.

The Society has been given a computer, but it isn't used yet. Moore sees its value in word-processing and doesn't anticipate its utilization in record-keeping for museum items.

Some other expense items:

Insurance: The Society carries insurance on the building, and as protection against flooding, but avoids special insurance on loans, and has none on artifacts. It seems pointless to insure something which is irreplaceable anyhow.

Exhibits: Often underestimated. Four "temporary" exhibits established for this summer cost about \$3,000.

The museum is now open only on weekends, until the weekend before Christmas. Its next membership meeting, Oct. 21st, will feature Sharon Cunningham giving history and lore on the Manitou mineral waters. The Society meets at 7 p.m. at the Museum.

Two Museums Open: in Adams And in Rio Grande Counties

Two new museums are under development in Colorado.

In Del Norte, citizens of Rio Grande County used donated property to establish a museum with exhibit galleries, storage space, offices, a meeting room and a small library. It replaces a one-room museum in the basement of the county courthouse.

Of interest to the Old Colorado City Historical Society is the role played by the State Historical Society. Its Technical Assistance Program gave free help, of a sort available to any local history society unsure how to go about raising funds, or needing help mounting exhibits. It has information files, professional staff, and can make referrals to helpful sources.

The Riverdale Golf clubhouse in Brighton is being adapted for an Adams County Museum. A barbershop and machinery from a blacksmith shop is in place, and exhibits are planned on "Women's Work" and Mexican culture.

The Palmer Lake Historical Restoration Foundation started a campaign to refurbish a 1911 locomotive and the D&RG depot.

The newly-formed "Greatest

④ Old Colorado City Historical Society
Friday, October 9, 1987

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

Gold Camp Historical Association" of Cripple Creek is looking for money to relocate and restore the Portland #2 hoist at the Battle Mountain Mine.

**NEXT MEETING:
NOVEMBER 13TH**

Briefly...

Stan and Eloise DeGeer ask for a membership list, and respond to Westside Memories. Stan recalls Louis Unser before he became famous as "the Old Man of the Mountain." Stan was the Gazette-Telegraph's Manitou agent when he knew Unser.

Many thanks to Raymond Hill and Lyman DeGeer for renewing their memberships, without even being asked. Their gift memberships from Stan DeGeer were late in the year enough that they're already paid for 1987-88. We'll apply their payment to future years, and we're glad we'll have their participation for another year or two.

President John Keller is investigating church buildings as possible museum sites. The building at 22nd and Kiowa isn't now on the market, so it couldn't be used as a trade for the church at 24th and Pikes Peak. There were buildings for sale (at last report) at 15th and Pikes Peak

and at 18th and Platte. Drive by and take a look.

Jan Knox promises a return visit soon from the Fountain Creek Band, with a demonstration square-dance team.

We'll bring expense and financial records up to date in our next issue.

WEST WORD

Volume III, Number 3 October 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 [1869-1917], 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, 473-1816. 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:	John Keller	475-8634
Vice President:	Jan Knox	495-3359
Secretary:	Ralph Conner	634-0695
Treasurer:	Orville Kenelly	471-0551 473-5307
	Vera Chambon	634-2340
	Virginia Cox	635-8705
	David Hughes	636-2040
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