

Friday, January 8, 1988

## We'll Re-travel Family's Rough Road in February

Our February meeting will feature **Hermina Gertrude Kilgore**, reviewing her book and a major share of her life, and passing on the joys, humor, and tribulations of herself and family in Colorado.

The Kilgores moved to Colorado in 1935 and—with time out for World War Two—lived challenging years near Denver and Woodland Park, where an effort at raising Silver Foxes brought more material for her books than it did financial reward. She returned to college after a 23-year absence.

The result of her varied experiences was an uplift of human spirit which she incorporated into two books. "Rough Road In the Rockies" was first published in 1961, reprinted in 1975. She also wrote "A Dean's Days," reviewing her ultimate career as dean of girls in the public schools.

Meeting is Feb. 12, 11 a. m.

### ABOUT THE PICTURES

The map shows the location of the Glass Works on the south side of Colorado City. The area is now a trailer court.

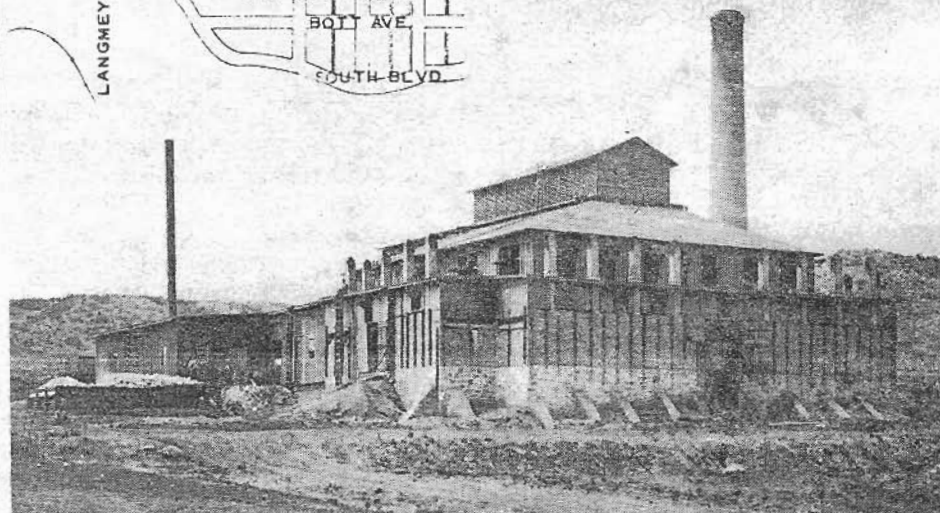
Center photo shows the factory building. [Photo from Local History Collection, Pikes Peak Library District.]

Bottom is a rare and faded 1890 glimpse of plant workers grouped around a Colorado Midland flatcar. Of 32 shown, only four show no evidence of a hat! The keg suggests a celebration, yet barely a third of them appear to be "adults." Three workers are identified: (o, left side, second from top), William L. Ziegler; (+) William Ziegler Sr.; (x) Herman Ziegler (father of Joseph A. Ziegler, who donated the picture). [Photo from Colorado Springs' Pioneers Museum.]

## Glassworks History Will Be Described Today

**Brenda Hawley**, Assistant Director of Technical Services at Penrose Library, will tell us today the history of a brief but unique Westside industry, the Glass Factory—built in 1882 and making bottles and artistic glasswork until a fire and explosion in 1889.

Mrs. Hawley is a bottle collector who became interested in the Glassworks during seven years she worked in the local history section of Penrose library. She's an active member of the Westerners, the Ghost Towns Association and a bottle collectors club, and she enjoys researching history.



# Westside Memories: Turning Back the Clock on Local Events

## Twenty-five Years Ago

February, 1963

High winds blew down power lines at 2729 W. Cucharras and 3214 W. Pikes Peak. An elevator in the Colorado Building, 2418 W. Colorado, halted between second and third floors, trapping inside Harold Smith. Maintenance men opened the elevator door, and Smith squeezed out an 18-inch gap—hastily, concerned about consequences if the elevator started up!

New city employees included fireman James E. Hodges, 502 W. Platte; policeman Paul W. Moore, 14 N. 8th.

The 10-unit Bungalow Court, 2712 W. Colorado, owned by Mr. and Mrs. G. V. McCullough, was written up in Tourist Court Journal.

Steve and Harold Hawk, 1611 W. Bijou, were awarded Eagle Scout rank.

Pikes Peak Historical Society gave 70 photo negatives to Colorado College Library. Scenes from Cripple Creek starting in the 1890's were originally owned by Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Young, 2209 W. Platte. Mrs. Young's parents ran H & H studio in Cripple Creek.

The G-T wrote up a Steinway square grand piano owned by Mrs. Blanche Gossage, 2302 Wolff Place. The redwood instrument survived fires in two Victor opera houses, was used 35 years in a one-room school in Clyde, before it was refinished.

## Fifty Years Ago

February, 1938

Mrs. Marie Nelson, 1905 W. Colorado, member of state wage board for women, estimated that local laundry workers received an average of 25¢ an hour, worked a maximum of 48 hours a week. Across Colorado, women earned on average \$11.60 a week and worked 54½ hours. Hours here varied because of summer visitors. Some employees worked three days a week in winter, and fulltime in summer.

Lowell J. Mills, principal of West Junior, headed a visual-education committee for Dist. 11, which arranged purchase of a "talkie-movie" machine. The G-T ran a picture of the projector in use in a West Junior science room.

West Junior was much in the news. Fifty boy tumblers performed between halves of a Colorado College-Denver Univ. basketball game in City Auditorium. PTA mothers put on a minstrel show. 101 men and boys attended a father-son supper served by Trinity Methodist where Mills showed color movies of trips to Canada and Mexico.

Ku Klux Klan burned crosses at Nob Hill and Red Rock Canon and distributed handbills to recruit members.

Boys, 14 and 17, were arrested for riding horses at the County Farm without permission.

Golden Cycle Corp. declared a quarterly dividend of \$1 a share. Ore shipments were curtailed to allow installation of automatic coal stokers at the roaster plant and improvements at the sampling works.

Corley Company agreed to pay \$3,100 in back taxes on the Corley Highway, to be divided equally between El Paso and Teller counties.

Police magistrate G. Russell Miller dismissed a complaint against a family at 2029 W. Cucharras for violation of cess pool ordinance.

Midland PTA sponsored a frolic at Slovenic Hall, 2519 Robinson, with bingo, square dancing and a program.

City Council approved a wall on the north side of Buena Vista school, 16th and Bijou, for flood protection.

City plans to oil-surface 17th St. from Colorado to Vermijo.

## Seventy-five Years Ago

February, 1913

Voters approved the new charter 464 to 147. Turnout was light because of weather and lack of opposition.

State Court of Appeals should have settled Colorado City's disputed April 4, 1911 election on the liquor issue. It confirmed that the city voted dry by three votes, rather than wet by one as declared by election judges. But wets got 759 signatures on a petition and a sympathetic council put the issue on the ballot for a vote in April.

At a meeting of bar owners, N. B. Hames said he didn't want to try to restore saloons to the city: "The territory is not worth fighting for."

Rev. Frank Hullinger, in Craig, will return to the City's Congregational Church. He was pastor here six years.

Robert Finley, a Colorado resident since 1860, died Feb. 6th at 82.

I. A. Foote and son Mark left for a new home in Provo, Utah.

District Court awarded \$600 to Mr. Barr and \$633.35 to Mr. Ripley for land taken to permit extension of Twelfth [32nd] Street to Colorado.



Frank Drew was named receiver for Progressive Stove and Furnace after First National Bank sued the company for \$3,000.

Women's Study Group installed a drinking fountain at the library. A recent German musical and Dr. Slocum's lecture helped raise funds.

Mr. Ginder contracted for stone work on the basement of the new Church of the Brethren, and Mr. Essex for the church building.

National Hotel opened a pool hall in its basement. W. H. Fowler took charge of the National's restaurant.

## One Hundred Years Ago

February, 1888

Local and eastern capitalists bought A. Z. Sheldon's ranch east of Colorado City for \$50,000. Sheldon kept 6 acres for his own use; the remaining 134 acres would be platted into town lots.

Real estate was booming. John Potter sold \$6,000 worth of lots in a year, mostly in Botts addition. Bott was reported laying out a new addition. In Parrish addition, west of Monument Creek, 250 lots changed hands. \$200-\$250 lots sold readily at \$500, some for as much as \$800.

A hotel was completed in Calvert Heights south of the Midland yards. W. J. Murphy leased it for two years.

Colorado City Council granted two-track right-of-way to Colorado Springs and Manitou Street Railway Co. Fifty men were immediately put to work excavating for ties on Colorado, opposite Stockbridge Bottling Works. The franchise requires operations to begin no later than July 1.

A new company, People's Passenger Railway Co., incorporated to build a street railway from the Santa Fe depot to Colorado City and Manitou.

Colorado Midland gained right-of-way in Colorado Springs for a spur on Moreno, between Sierra Madre and the D&RG, to connect with the Newton Lumber sawmill on Sierra Madre.

Council enforced the sidewalk ordinance. Property owners who didn't build wooden sidewalks would pay the city for their construction.

Colorado City has \$2,300 in its treasury and no indebtedness.

James D. Faulkner resigned as postmaster. A petition circulated asking that Robert Love be given the job.

New self-winding electric clocks were installed in Midland stations in Leadville, Aspen Junction, Aspen and Glenwood Springs.

Mrs. L. L. Hall filed a plat of the Midland Ditch with the county clerk.

A new weekly paper may publish.



# White House Ranch Enjoys a Lengthy History and an Active Present

"I think of White House as a very unique place that has something for everyone," says Kathy Read, fundraiser and membership chairperson for the organization sponsoring the ranch. She reviewed the history and attractions of the city-owned living museum at our meeting Dec. 11 at Thunder and Buttons.

The ranch is special for kids and volunteer adults; for art, antique, folk art, music, animal and bird-lovers. It offers unsurpassed scenery, a good place to exercise, and living exhibits for historians, architects, decorators and gardeners.

The history begins with the Ute Indians who camped against the rocks of the Garden of the Gods and relied on Camp Creek for water. Spaniards passed through in the 1600's, followed by mountain men, trappers and other explorers. In the late 1850's came the miners.

Walter Galloway became the first legal resident of the site, homesteading 160 acres and paying a registration fee of \$17 to make the property his. He sold the claim early in 1875 to Robert M. Chambers for \$1,400, and retired "back east", a "rich man" whose later history is unknown to us.

The Chambers family moved to the region in 1874 for Mrs. Chambers' health, and her improvement was enough to persuade them to remain. They had been wheat farmers in Wisconsin and wanted to establish a produce ranch. They built Rockledge with stone quarried on the ranch itself.

They established a dam west of the house to control flood waters (the dam can still be seen), and established an intricate irrigation system. Son Ben created a steam heating system for two greenhouses to grow winter vegetables. Mrs. Chambers wrote in 1885, "...the homestead claim has grown more fruit and vegetables than any other ranch in El Paso County. With its six acres of asparagus, hundreds of apple trees and hundreds of cherry trees besides other fruit, its value has increased many fold and shown what even the apparent barren land, so near to the foothills, may become by patient, persistent effort."

Mrs. Elsie Chambers sold jams and jellies to the Antlers hotel, took in summer boarders from the east, and taught the first school in the valley upstairs in the house. The Chambers sold the property after 26 years to General Palmer for \$17,000, traveled for a while, then settled

## Its Original Residents, Volunteers, Staff and Visitors Find It Interesting Place

in Pasadena, California.

Palmer used the property as a home for his wife's half-sister, Charlotte Schlater, and her husband, William. The Schlaters had lived in South Africa and the \$20,000 home reflected the Dutch architecture popular there, rather than the Victorian style more common here at the time.

It was meant as an upper-class country estate, with back stairs for live-in servants to go to their quarters on the third floor. This house, 80 years old in November, is being restored. Ms. Read showed pictures which demonstrate the excellent condition of the house, thanks to the care lavished on it by its various owners.

Schlater was a noted ornithologist, and Palmer paid his salary and supported a museum for him. When Colorado College closed its museum in Palmer Hall, Schlater's Colorado bird collection was moved to Boulder. White House ranch officials hope eventually to return the collection to the spot where his research was done. Schlater and his wife moved back to Britain after the death of Palmer in 1909, and died during World War Two.

The property was empty from 1909 to 1918, and was subsequently owned by the Cocorans of New York, George Strake of Dallas, L. L. Dent of Colorado Springs, and Edmond Vrooman from 1953 to 1968. El Pomar and Bemis Taylor foundations gave the city \$300,000 to purchase the property only hours before it was to be sold to developers for high-rise condominiums.

White House Ranch is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a farm and agricultural museum, and efforts are under way to restore Orchard House, Rockledge, and the fruit orchards. The restoration is financed by private donations and memberships.

## Present Westside Is Bright Picture As Well as Its Past

Besides her work for White House Ranch, Ms. Read is proprietor of the Holly Berry House, 2411 W. Colorado Ave., a gift and craft shop. Her perspective adds to her enthusiasm for Westside because of the response of tourists and visitors to "downtown Colorado City" as it exists today. She notes envious Denver visitors who express the wish that Larimer Square could have Westside's charm!

During the ranch's season from June to December, volunteers—including children who are members of the Wranglers organization—demonstrate early agriculture, hide tanning, candle making, cooking, quilting and blacksmithing. Special programs feature antiques and fine arts, and there is a special Christmas presentation each year featuring country folk art.

A future issue of WestWord will carry more information on the organization for any O.C.C.H. S. members who wish to join.

Old Colorado City Historical Society  
Friday, January 8, 1988

## Lorene Baker Englert's Work Salvaged Records

Member Kenny Englert writes from California that our item about Thomas Van Camp's work with property records owes a lot to his late wife, Lorene Baker Englert, who preserved the "Little a" county book and other ledgers.

She received permission from County Commissioners Keith McBurney, Jack Torrence and Fred Monk to search the courthouse attic before the clutter was taken to the dump. She found the "Little a" book and other records. When Mrs. Englert told the commissioners the records' value, they gave Mr. Englert permission to take them to Denver where Agnes Wright Spring had the materials preserved.

"She was one helluva researcher," comments Kenny, who was also busy with historic and other activities in Colorado Springs and Salida for many years; and still promotes Colorado and Colorado history in Seal Beach, California. He told the Springs' chapter of the Westerners the history of Ramona last March (WestWord, Mar. 13), and remains active despite bypass heart surgery a few months ago during which he suffered a stroke. We gratefully acknowledge the work of Lorene and Kenny Englert.

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## A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We're pleased to welcome Mary Wentzel to membership in the Old Colorado City Historical Society.

And Mary Dunning Rymer is a new life member, sponsored by Orville Kenelly. Mrs. Rymer donated lantern slides to the Society which were once the property of Anne Elizabeth Dunning, the first librarian in Colorado City and later an Episcopalian missionary to Burma.

## SECRETARY'S EXPENSES

11/16 73 nwsltrs x 22¢	16.06
Deposit for PO Box key	1.00
11/25 Thanks, late nwsltrs	1.66
12/16 98 nwsltrsx22¢+17¢	21.73
12/18 Misc. mailings	.44
<b>TOTAL DUE SEC'Y</b>	<b>40.89</b>

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426 Colorado avenue, Colorado City.

[Ad from "The Gospel of Work",  
publication of Colorado City's  
First Methodist Church, 1901]

## NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 12TH

Reservations, Cancellations:

Lyn Owen: 473-1846

## WEST WORD

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Fri., Jan. 8, 1988

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—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 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	634-0895
Treasurer:	Orville Kenelly	471-0551 473-5307
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