

Friday, March 11, 1988

Wear a Hat, ANY Hat, To Next Meet

Our program April 8th aims at pure, exclusive fun, as Esther Wickard guides us through an off-beat excursion into "Hats"—men's, women's; perky, pretty or putrid.

Gladys Bueler plays the piano to assist Ms. Wickard.

Vice President and Program Chairperson Jan Knox urges a big turnout, and hopes we'll each be adventurous enough to wear a headpiece—from the past or made for the occasion. We're invited to bring feathers and ribbons for on-the-spot construction.

Ms. Wickard was scheduled for October, but illness interfered. We're pleased we'll have her popular presentation next month.

Activities Hinge on Members' Support

The O.C.C.H.S. Board meeting Feb. 19th discussed up-coming events which would make the public more aware of us, but participation depends on the support our membership can give, so no specific plans were laid.

(1) Most immediate is the **St. Patrick's Day Parade Sunday (13th)**. Dave Hughes suggested we might be the rallying point for Westsiders of Irish descent who would like to march. Leon Young said he may have a line on an antique car which could represent us, and said he'd get in touch with president John Keller if arrangements could be made.

(2) One important project we are committed to is the annual **Colorado Avenue awards** for residential and commercial improvements made the last twelve months that preserve Westside styles and traditions. O.C.C.H.S. makes the award in partnership with the city. Two or more who have an interest in

Westsider Salvages Lost Historic Plaque

Lifetime Westsider Bob Speer, owner of the Templeton Building, exercised awareness and public spirit to rescue a stolen historical marker and to arrange to have it mounted in a safer location.

Dave Hughes says fifteen such markers were established as part of the Colorado Centennial in 1976, each outlining some interesting aspect of Colorado City history. Each cost \$150. One at the northeast corner of 25th and Colorado had disappeared, but turned up at a local auction house from a flea market. Speer got the undamaged marker for \$7. General Manager B. J. Wakeley of Meadow Muffins, 2432 W. Colorado, paid the cost to Speer and will re-install the panel in Meadow Muffins' entrance.

Two plaques are stored and can be put back; 3 are missing.

Westside appearances who can spend an afternoon or two looking at prospects, are invited to sign up. Guidelines have been developed which make the job easier. Agnes Johnson and Ralph Conner did last year's judging.

(3) Arati Artists has invited O.C.C.H.S. to put a display in its window at 2425 W. Colorado during its history Art Show, March 27th through April 8th. Ralph Conner will build a display around the portable cabinets we previously used in our Bancroft Cabin exhibits, containing memorabilia from Luther McKnight's collection.

(4) We need to plan now if we intend to occupy the Bancroft Cabin for **Territory Days**, May 28th through the 30th (Memorial Day weekend). To avoid a burden on any individual, we would need between 20 and 30 volunteers,

Bill Henderson Tells Us Little - Known History

Our speaker today is life member Bill Henderson, who has been a student of Westside for fifty years, and has explored unusual aspects of local history.

He plans a potpourri of people and events, but promises to touch on the humanity and kindnesses of the "fancy women" who played a significant, if embarrassing, role in giving financial support to Colorado City's early government.

He arrived here in 1933 with an active interest in history. Since then, as a Westside bank president and property owner, as city councilman for more than a dozen years and mayor for four, he has first-hand knowledge of much of our past. He has continued to add to his knowledge and collection of historical artifacts and is prominent in several historic organizations.

each of whom would work one day, not more than three hours.

Following are the jobs that need to be filled:

Three people each shift, times two shifts per day, times three days = nine guides to talk to our visitors and have them sign in as honorary citizens.

A driver each day to pick up our guide crews, take them to Bancroft, and deliver them home at the end of the shift (so members don't have to walk from distant parking places): once before opening; picking up the second crew and returning the first crew home; and returning the second crew home.

If we sell lemonade and cookies, we would need an added pair on duty each shift, plus volunteers to bake the cookies. It was a popular service, and made money, but isn't "required."

Westside Memories: Turning Back the Clock on Local Events

Twenty-five Years Ago

April, 1963

Colorado Springs West Lions' president Fred R. Eisele accepted a charter for the 30-member organization.

Westside Commercial Club met at the new Norton Nursing Home, 2612 W. Cucharras, and toured the facility.

Burglars stole the cash register at 15th St. Grocery, 1502 W. Colorado.

A man held in California admitted holding up Maxwell's Grocery, 1010 W. Colorado, in February, taking \$213.

Dorothy Smith, curator of the Pioneers' Museum, said a list of pioneers here before 1870 reached 1,300.

Eight Westside congregations held Union Good Friday Services at Trinity Church; Mrs. Bette Russell conducted combined choirs. The Commercial Club held an Easter Egg hunt in Bancroft.

Fifty Years Ago

April, 1938

Fourteen-year-old Grace Krug, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Krug, 2549 Wheeler, personally thanked Pueblo publisher Frank Hoag who provided her with an iron lung bought for Pueblo when she was stricken with infantile paralysis.

Another 14-year-old, Robert Crist, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Crist, south 26th and Corley highway, astonished artists with his sculpturing. He completed a foot-long statue in marble, a nude figure he called "The Sunbather."

Church of Christ moved from 1917 to 1402 W. Pikes Peak. Former atheist Martin Charles preached at Emmanuel Presbyterian at Mesa and Spruce.

W. R. Weeden, president of West Side Commercial Club, said his group would work for a clean-up of Colorado Ave., especially the 2600 block, and wanted the Avenue lighted from 30th to Manitou Springs; and would work for greater use of the Community Center, upstairs at 2432 W. Colorado.

The club opposed highway department efforts to eliminate the 25th and Colorado traffic signal; it was needed to protect pedestrians.

Colorado Springs annexed 1600 and 1700 blocks between Vermijo and D&RGW tracks—"South LaVergne"—to eliminate a jog in city limits.

Dist. 11 warned that the high school could lose accreditation if crowding wasn't relieved at the 1893 building.

South Tejon street bridge, wiped out in the Memorial Day flood of 1935, was replaced and put back in service.



Grand View Addition (1888)

Between Colorado and Pikes Peak; Gypsum is 33rd. They and the unmarked alley are all that remain at what is now the site of the Shrine Club, formerly Arensdale School.

Seventy-five Years Ago

April, 1913

Saloons were outlawed for two years, 765 to 661—a clearer majority than the disputed election two years before. Two of five precincts voted wet. No commissioner had a majority. In a second election the 15th, voters chose two "dry" and one "wet" commissioners and passed two charter amendments favored by wets.

James D. Faulkner, supported by wets, won the mayoralty from incumbent P. J. Hamble—only dry in the old government. Faulkner pledged "not only the law but the intent and spirit of the law shall have from me a fair, square, honest, impartial trial."

Mrs. May Ammerman won over John G. Faulkner as clerk; Charles B. Myles from George Lawrence as street commissioner. Voters approved a 20-mill limit on taxes, made the clerk (instead of the mayor) the police magistrate.

City had a \$20,000 debt and the bank refused to cash city warrants because the city had no funds. Warrants not paid collected 6% interest. Dries called former commissioners "spendthrifts," and charged that when they cut saloons from 16 to 8, one wholesaler had all the business and the other had none.

"April 1 the chickens were supposed to be deprived of their free and unrestricted privilege to uproot neighborhood gardens, according to the city ordinance. Have you shut up yours?"—Iris

Collection money was stolen from the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Anna Bernard, 7, died, perhaps from ptomaine poisoning from canned chili.

James Clift's home near Adams' Crossing burned; no fire plug in reach.

Building of the Church of the Brethren should be ready May 1st.

Arbor day: At Whittier, Miss Hazel Long and Andrew Whittenbeck furnished piano and mandolin music for winding of the Maypole. At Arensdale, students brought and planted 14 trees.

One Hundred Years Ago

April, 1888

Colorado City's election was "most exciting" ever—585 registered, 319 voted. Three policemen were sworn in to preserve order. Voters were challenged and vote fraud charged. Bonds for a new city hall were defeated. A. J. Brazelton was chosen mayor 195 to 135, replacing incumbent Charles Stockbridge. Charles A. Kelley and James Buster were also elected over John H. Hunt and John F. Stewart.

Donations sent the children of S. C. Johnson to relatives. Johnson was committed to the insane asylum and his children were left unsupported.

\$10,485.23 in general school funds was distributed to 38 county districts.

Colorado City attached a new fire plug to the water system.

Thirteen of 16 saloons had so far paid \$300 for a license renewal.

Colorado Midland ran suburban trains to Green Mountain Falls where it planned a turnaround.

Sale of lots began for Grand View addition (map). Under the "allotment plan", a buyer paid \$400 (\$200 down and another \$200 at 8% in a year) and lots were assigned by drawing May 12. One had an \$800 house with a cellar and a hydrant in the yard; lot five had a stable for three horses.

Board of Indian Depredations ruled against H. M. Teachout's claim for \$12,000 for an Indian raid in 1868. He lost 60 mares, 6 mules, 21 colts and a stallion, but "the claim was not presented within limitations fixed by law," and Congress would determine the loss.

A hundred men of Bott's Colorado City Water company laid 17,000 feet of pipe and installed 21 fire hydrants in April, had 6,000 feet yet to lay. There were filtering wells at the dam, and at the reservoir a thousand feet below. Sutherland Creek (Crystal Park) would enter the pipes May 1.

Two switches were needed before the Springs-Colorado City street railway could begin. Crews put a crossing at Tejon and Pikes Peak overnight.

When would the bridge over the Fountain on Bear Creek road be built?

E. R. Holden of Denver Smelting said he gave up on a Colorado City smelter because it would cost \$11,000 to get D&RGW trackage onto the Bott site, and \$35,000 for water. He'd build in Pueblo if he could get a subsidy.

Colorado Springs planned four new classrooms at Garfield; Manitou considered replacing its school; Colorado City debated a new building.

Rough Road In the Rockies Has Its Detours But Humor and Perspective Give Safe Trip

Anyone who believes the world isn't making progress should talk to **Hermina Kilgore**, speaker at our Feb. 14 meeting. She appreciates the modern world because of experience with life in the rural mountains.

She reviewed her book, "Rough Road in the Rockies," which chronicles the life of her and her family, starting under inauspicious circumstances in the midst of the depression, and building to relative ease and contentment.

She and **Robert Kilgore** defied parents' recommendations to marry in March, 1935. Following a Colorado Springs honeymoon, the couple adapted to economic reality by living apart—Hermina in Denver, working, and Bob enduring a rugged, unpaid apprenticeship at a fox farm 25 miles away.

The challenges were still there when Hermina finally moved to the farm and met the hardships of rural living in the '30's: lack of electricity, outhouses, doing the ironing with a gasoline-powered iron; the isolation; and problems with cars when trying to contact civilization. Bob's expertise in building, which he used later as a contractor, grew from efforts to make primitive cabins habitable.

No sooner had the couple laid water pipe into the house or added a hot-water jacket to the range, than circumstances would lead them to a new home at another fox farm. Mrs. Kilgore credited the foxes with a "better marriage" than some humans, but their glamorous lives impose on their human caretakers. The busy breeding season, for example, is in January when temperatures drop to 25 degrees below zero.

Once she woke up to "music" from the piano, to learn that a rat was the player. Boarding up the rat's hole contained it, but that created its own problems.

Even social occasions were Spartan, although she and "neighbors" sometimes got together for bridge or sewing. One introduction to country ways came when she first hosted such a gathering and found the guests coming into the house through the back door and kitchen.

She recalled with greater

fondness the benefits of living close to the farm, such as cream at 15¢ a pint so rich she had to dilute it before whipping it.

Children offered their special challenges. When they moved into a former post office in Conifer, the family consisted of Hermina, Robert, and two babies—one in an incubator. Life was better after Bob installed a bathroom!

Despite the hardships, Hermina took every opportunity to continue her education, and was finally graduated from college in 1952—twenty-three years after first entering as a freshman.

The family's settled phase began in 1948 when they moved a trailer into the Cragmore area of Colorado Springs. Bob built a house and the town grew around them.

Bob worked in construction and became a city building inspector. Hermina took a job at West Junior under Lowell Mills, and later spent 25 years as dean of girls at Wasson High School. This latter experience led to another book, "A Dean's Days."

Her writing began with an article about living in a log cabin, and she continued to create the book as she lived the life it described. She tried to interest a publisher in the book after the family had "gone broke" in the fox-farm business, but editors insisted it must have a happy ending.

The happy ending came later, as did publication. It's apparent that the book not only told a happy ending, but because it honed the couple's sense of humor and guided their perspective it helped bring it about.

Board Discusses Plans And Recommends Policy

The O.C.C.H.S. board met for more than two hours Feb. 19th. Present were **Ralph Conner**, **Vera Chambon**, **Virginia Cox**, **David Hughes**, **Aldine Lipe** and **Leon Young**. Absent were **John Keller**, **Jan Knox**, **Orville Kenelly**, **Agnes Johnson** and **Ruth Maxwell**.

A formal motion from **Dave Hughes**, seconded by **Aldine Lipe**, recommended exchanging memberships with other historical societies, for mutual advantage.

Items discussed informally are covered elsewhere in this issue, or are summarized below:

Mailing lists will be supplied to other organizations only with a specific understanding about limited use. Any member who asks may have a membership list.

Present membership categories are satisfactory; "corporate" or organizational ones aren't needed.

Annual membership cards (except life members) should be issued, not certificates.

Print extra copies of the newsletter, to be offered as a "bonus" to new members.

It's proper for our newsletter to be a "publication of record" for Westside history, and to include news from other historical societies. As a rule, one free copy to a potential member should be enough to uncover an interest.

Gifts are assigned to general or endowment funds according to donor instructions. If no stipulation is made, it's carried in the general fund until our budget is prepared, when it's allocated according to need. Endowment funds are spent only after two-thirds approval by members.

Last year's budget permits limited spending on preservation supplies for museum acquisitions.

We should consider purchase of historic paintings created by the Arati Artists' competition.

Members Are Asked to Establish Renewal Policy

Secretary **Ralph Conner** asked for guidance on memberships begun in the middle of the membership year. He has followed a workable system, but felt a formal policy should be discussed. April is the normal renewal time.

Mr. Conner has allowed memberships taken out in November or later to qualify for the following year, with a "free ride" for the few months of the old year. Those who join before November are asked to renew in April.

After considering alternatives, the board postponed a decision until the policy could be discussed by members, when time allows at some future meeting.

At least three alternatives could be considered:

(A) The present system, in which the Society carries for a few months those who join late in the membership year.

(B) A pro rata system in which new members are charged 50¢ a month until they renew in April. (50¢ is the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter).

(C) A 12-month membership in which renewal comes 12 months after the original membership, regardless of when that comes.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Kay Arnold writes from Riverside, CA., (3630 Russell St., zip 92501), where she adapted "Aunt KayA" to the Orient. She'll tell of her ocean trip, showing Chinese artifacts found in archaeological digs in Riverside. She enjoys the climate, but says trees "bend to the Santa Ana winds."

Board Mulls I.R.S. Returns and Status

Now that our annual income is more than \$5,000, we must file tax returns (last year and this) although we won't have taxes to pay. Treasurer **Orville Kenelly** recommends we get professional help, which, according to one estimate, would cost \$250-300 per year. Board members will shop around before a final decision.

The board wants formal IRS recognition as "tax exempt". Colorado incorporation as "non-profit" has no influence on the IRS. A 14-page form is involved, and we may need professional guidance. Such status will assure deductions for contributors, and a cheaper mail rate later.

SECRETARY'S EXPENSES

2/17 80 newslttrs (+51¢)	18.11
2/23, 2/29 addl newslttrs	1.68
2/18 11x17" newslttr paper	24.28
Rag-content paper	10.76
Total due sec'y	54.83

NEXT MEETING:

APRIL 8TH

Reservations: Lyn Owen, 473-1846

WEST WORD

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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 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

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President:	John Keller	475-8634
Vice President:	Jan Knox	495-3359
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