

Friday, March 10, 1989

Garden of the Gods Graffiti Are Grist for Historian Couples' Mill

Most of us haven't examined rocks in the Garden of the God closely, but if we did we'd presumably discover some historic markings, some of them going back to the 18th century.

Richard and Mary Ann Gehling have checked the rocks and followed through with research which they've turned into a book. They will present results of their studies at our meeting in April, in a 45-minute slide presentation.

Most of the initials and notations date from 1858 on, when the region was visited by settlers. But other markings appear to go back to times of Spanish exploration.

AFTERMATH OF WAR—There's history even in a simple ad, from the **Colorado Springs Independent**, Nov. 7, 1946. For one thing, fashions change and there's less demand today for bib overalls—or for dry goods stores, for that matter. "New merchandise" was filling in for war-time shortages which still existed in 1946, and shoppers craved "scarce items."

WITCHER'S DRY GOODS

Formerly L. S. Ascoug Store

If you haven't already been in and gotten acquainted do so the next time you are shopping on the West Side.

We are receiving shipments of new merchandise almost daily and we invite you to shop here first.

This week we have Men and Boys bib overalls. A new shipment of Fairfield Welders Gloves. Knit sleepers with feet-in for children. Knit Ski and Flannel outing pajamas in a wide range of sizes. Also many other scarce items, come in and look around.

WITCHER'S

2426 West Colo. Ave.

Phone Main 8463



Territory Days Call For History Feature

Under guidance of O.C.C.H.S. member **Sandi Martin** the annual Territory Days promises to be better than ever! It will be held, as usual, Memorial Day weekend, May 27, 28 and 29th.

The goal of giving the rendezvous more historic flavor creates a great incentive to the Old Colorado City Historical Society to take part. With an earlier start on planning, we should be able to display some historic items and make people aware of our existence and future plans.

We didn't participate last year, but in two years previous, when we occupied the Garvin cabin in Bancroft Park, we had a steady stream of visitors, including old-timers who were delighted to see relics of Colorado City's past, and who were eager to share recollections.

Depending on what we do in addition to displays, and whether or not we offer cookies and lemonade, we should have three people on duty, for two shifts, on three days. We need a driver each day (since parking is difficult) to ferry a new shift to the park and take the others home. That's a minimum of 21 shifts, not counting setting-up and taking-down time.

If you visit with the people, it's a demanding job, but fun. We'll contact members to get enough sign-ups that the burden can be spread around. A shift would last three hours (10-1 or 1-4). Besides a shift for O.C.C.H.S., allow a shift for yourself to take in the fun. We'll discuss whether we can do the project.

"Heritage of Western Women" Is Dalton Topic

We'll meet (in person) the school marm, pioneer mother, Victorian lady, wild west woman, and ranch woman, introduced by **Lora Dalton**, and paraded under the topic, "The Heritage of Western Women."

We're particularly grateful to the members who volunteered to model the respective costumes. We'll give more formal thanks in our next newsletter.

CALENDAR

Mar. 12: St. Patrick's Day Parade, 1:00. Floats; pipers.

Mar. 13: Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners. **Joyce Johns** will speak on the topic, "About the Queen."

Mar. 21: Historical Society of the Pikes Peak Region, luncheon meeting at Masonic Temple, 11:30; **Tom O'Boyle** talks on Music and Musicians of the Region.

Mar. 25: Daylong festival from noon on at Bancroft Park, Book Sleuth and Meadow Muffins; **Juanita Rabbit's** Easter party. Prizes. Children and adults.

Board to Make New Financial Decision

A 5-month deposit with World Savings matures March 12th, and contains about \$65,000. We'll need a brief meeting of our Board following the luncheon to decide what to do about this money.

Treasurer **Orville Kenelly** can't attend today, but he has passed on some options for us to consider. The account's been paying 8.1% since Oct. 12, 1988 when we deposited \$56,933.83.

We have a certificate maturing Apr. 17 at Bank Western.

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

Twenty-five Years Ago

April, 1964

Fire destroyed Dempsey family home at 1204 S. 26th. Ray Smith's barn and fence at 25th and Broadway harmed by fire. Fire did \$10,000 damage to Collins' Supermarket, 636 S. 8th.

Mrs. Louise Parks found a copy of the Colorado City Chieftan, dated July 25, 1891. William D. Toliver was editor and publisher. It was a daily 1889-1898, and a weekly 1895-1898.

The Antlers hotel was to be closed Aug. 31st and razed by its new owners.

Bernie White filed plat for 18.9 acre 21st St. Industrial Park, west of 21st and north of Gold Camp Road.

Car bounced off a curb, jumped opposite curb and retaining wall, plowed through fence and struck house at 2102 W. Colorado. Driver, lighting a cigarette, thought friend was steering.

Sacred Heart school got a push-button signal to replace flashing sign.

Fifty Years Ago

April, 1939

Survey in 1938 showed region had 51 cottage camps, with 823 cabins capable of accomodating 2,200 people.

"Carlton" tunnel was started to drain water from Gold Camp mines.

Street department put in 430-foot storm sewer on W. Kiowa between 30th and Camp Creek to prevent Colorado Ave. flooding. Workers found fossils.

Colorado, Texas—fed up with being confused with state of Colorado—changed name back to Colorado City.

El Paso and Teller counties made the Corley Road a free highway. W. H. Corley leased it in 1922 for \$370,000; when his lease expired, the road reverted to the government.

One-cent rise in prices made standard gasoline cost 18¢ a gallon; bronze, 20¢; ethyl, 23¢.

Mill Tailings Recovery Company installed equipment at Portland dump to re-process gold ore.

Seventy-five Years Ago

April, 1914

Colorado City High won spelling contest from Colorado Springs, Cheyenne Mountain and Boys Club and kept Mrs. F. W. Goddard's cup. Team: John Griffin, Lloyd Nought, George Joseph, Irving Morris, Emil Brandenburg, Nellie Griffin, Peal Lisenby, Zella Michaels, Elsie Johnson, Frances Musser.

Hibbards changed mind about a new building around its old one, held "Tearing Down Building" sale so it could move into Bennett building, across alley. Old buildings were hardware stores, bought by C. A. Hibbard in 1908. New building would have children's playroom, employees' roof garden. It would be town's highest building except for Exchange Bank.

Longest baseball game ever played in Colorado Springs? Liller and Steel schools called a 20-inning game at 7 p. m. because of darkness, tied 3-3. Murdock pitched full game for Liller.

Rock Island brought 162 unemployed hoboos into Springs, refused to let them back on freights for Washington. Deputies arrested 20 for piling ties to stop train. County sued railroads.

Manitou voted 361-231 to remain wet. Ramona re-elected George Geiger, mayor; Emil Beck, Marion Nickell, H. O. Thompson, W. C. English, H. S. Jordan, John Sholes, trustees.

Ferdinand Beyle died. Charles Corporan died in Idaho.

Rev. H. H. Watson's 99th birthday was celebrated at home of daughter, Mrs. J. W. Spahr, 1530 Lincoln.

Willard Rice, quartermaster, and William K. Volkman, wireless operator, were on cruiser Maryland, which might become involved in hostilities between U. S. and Mexico at Vera Cruz.

Pvt. L. L. Purcell was shot through breast in 14-hour battle between Colorado National Guard and striking coal miners at Ludlow. Several dozen died in strike violence.

Colorado College students counted traffic on Tejon, between Pikes Peak and Huerfano, between 7 am and 7 pm on a Tuesday and Thursday. They saw 7,234 vehicles; 2,878 bicycles, 2,150 motor vehicles, 1,671 horsedrawn, 522 motorcycle, 13 riding horses.

Committees were formed to discuss annexation of Colorado City to Colorado Springs. City members: C. A. Sheetz, Martin Drake, M. L. Phelps. Springs': W. J. Chinn, J. G. Dern, Dr. P. O. Hanford. No formal vote could occur before 1915 municipal elections.

J. J. Coughlin prepared his zoo and park on Cheyenne Blvd. for reopening. He was re-elected in Chicago by big margin in first voting by women.

Manager H. P. Robison said Midland Band had 13 woodwinds, 14 brass and two percussion. Only Colorado City player: bass J. E. Falk. They planned 9 concerts a week for 12 weeks.

Tabernacle holding 8,000 was to be

built at YMCA tennis courts, Cascade and Platte, for Billy Sunday revival.

Program for Red Men lodge smoker: Nat Leonard vs. Kid Herman, 10 rounds; John Brewer vs. Joe Pinello, 10; Soapie Smith vs. Snip Snider, 6; and Jack Giesing vs. Frankie Neil, 4.

County woman suing for divorce, said husband wouldn't fix leaky roof of their sod house; clothing and bedding turned mouldy and green. He had a store with goodies, but gave her only potatoes to eat.

Conference ended threat of street-car strike. Company reinstated Motor-man Potts and Conductor Thomas, suspended when they used profanity in car barn; agreed to arbitration panel (union and non-union) to hear disputes. Four electrical workers remained on strike, asked raise from \$3.40 to \$3.75 a day. They wanted par with telephone linemen who had less hazardous work.

Council raised speed limits from 12 to 15 m.p.h. on Colorado Ave., and to a maximum of 23 m.p.h. elsewhere. It established taxes on electric, street-car and telephone poles and on coal and coke companies; made it illegal to keep pigs or hogs in City limits.

E. J. "Carnation" Hawkins died in Leadville after being crushed while coupling cars on the Midland. He'd been brakeman for 20 years, was 73.

One Hundred Years Ago

April, 1889

Colo. City High school was accredited by North Central Association.

W. N. and J. I. Kinslow advertised their store, 416 Colorado, as "The Only Piano Store Colorado City ever had..."

Santa Fe sold 50 tickets locally for Oklahoma land rush held April 22nd.

Charles E. Dodson, editor of the Colorado City Eagle, was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter in shooting printer Sid Easton. Judge said his reckless handling of firearm merited 10 months in county jail.

Sheriff took 12 men to state penitentiary—largest number in years. Brought population of pen to 437, one more than ever before.

Charles Tutt's real estate agency sold Ashley Stables' Bear Creek Ranch to easterners for \$17,000. It controlled nearly all Bear Creek water rights.

Charles Adams left for LaSalle, Ill., to get 58 glass workers, attendants and engineers. With families, that would bring 300 to 500 new residents. Every house in Colorado City was occupied, so there'd surely be housing problems.

History Day Scholars Tell of Successful Medical, Resort Enterprises

Early Homestead on Pikes Peak Leads Palsgrove Family to Run Halfway House

When **Thomas Palsgrove** took responsibility for moving supplies to the summit of Pikes Peak by burro, for construction of the signal (weather) station, he heard opportunity knocking. The result was an early-day attraction on Pikes Peak: Half Way House.

At our meeting Feb. 10th, we heard from a member of the Palsgrove families, **Michael Palsgrove**, who described the evolution of a homestead cabin into a tourist resort. Michael's display and story made him regional and state second-place winners and a participant in nationals in History Day competition.

Thomas T. Palsgrove tested his luck in gold fields and explored various jobs before settling in Colorado Springs. He took on the chore of shepherding twelve burros each day to the summit of the Peak, and discovered the spot three miles above Manitou Springs that he fell in love with. It had been claimed as a homestead, but Palsgrove bought out the owner and in 1884 began spending summer months with his young family on the 360-acre claim.

The site was on the original trail to the top of Pikes Peak,

North Teacher, Who Sponsors History Day Presenters, Wins D.A.R. Award

Aubrey West, social studies teacher and sponsor for History Day students at North Junior High—including the three who spoke to our Society—has been recognized by the Zebulon Pike Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, as the year's Outstanding Teacher of American History. He is now a candidate for national honors. The first announcement of the award was given at our meeting by **Carolyn Churchill**, who is a volunteer coordinator of History Day Scholars. Since 1985, five North Junior students have been national winners in History Day competition.

April Is History Day Climax

This year's competition for History Day is moving towards its climax. Local winners will be selected April 8th; regional judging will be at the Colorado Springs' Pioneers Museum on the 22nd; state competition will be in Boulder April 29th. National competition is in Washington, D. C., and will be held June 11th through the 15th.

This year's theme is the individual in history.

and on the route eventually followed by the cog road, so he was better situated than he realized. Hikers who under-estimated the climb, or who didn't allow time to get back to civilization, began to use the cabin as a refreshment stop or for an overnight stay.

Three brothers joined Thomas, staked their own claims and assisted in caring for tourists. The Palsgroves gradually expanded their home into a full-scale hotel. For years it was the end of the line for the cog road. Michael said the hotel had 22 rooms, and on occasion these were filled and a cots were set up in a recreation cabin to take care of all visitors. The families pitched in to serve meals and refreshments and entertain the tourists.

The season was too short for a garden so supplies came by burro or train. Most of the year, the Palsgroves lived in Manitou.

Michael and a brother hiked over their family's former property, to match stories and pictures with the present lay of the land. No evidence of the "resort" remains. The hotel was destroyed by vandals around 1920, and Colorado Springs now owns the property as part of the city watershed.

The story is also told in a pamphlet written by a great aunt, Mary Palsgrove Hoe, in "Reminiscences of a Rocky Mountain Homestead", in the library.

Media Project Introduces Us to Medical Frontiersmen Who War On Mosquitos

A crucial development in world science was shown at our Feb. 10th meeting, as **Ingrid Capen** and **Amy Scott** illustrated the story of yellow fever and its conquest by army doctor **Walter Reed**.

The ailment came here with African slaves, and it caused thousands of deaths. An example of the primitive treatment is that used in Philadelphia in 1793: sick were bled and purged. When four out of five survived the disease and its "cure," the treatment was considered a success.

Dr. Walter Reed pin-pointed source of the sickness while treating 340 American soldiers in Cuba at the time of the Spanish-American war. He established methods for eradicating the disease-spreading mosquito. Using Reed's discoveries, **William C. Gorgas** stamped out yellow fever in the Panama Canal Zone and made the canal possible.

The ladies presented historic slides, and a taped narration, which won honors in regional and state competition, and a third-place victory in national competition. Their program's an example of "media presentations"—one of five avenues open to contestants.

History Day Gives Opportunity To Encourage Research In Westside History

Coordinator **Carolyn Churchill** suggested that O.C.C.H.S. might make a special award in future History Day competitions for outstanding work on history of special interest to us, to be presented in addition to the regular History Day honors.

A certificate or cash award would go to the best presentation on, say, a Westside event or person, based on criteria we established. O.C.C.H.S. members would be involved in judging.

We presented a \$25 check in general support of the program.

**A Buttermilk Enthusiast Finds
His Tastes Turn When
He Faces Churn!**

Thomas Van Camp has been searching the writings of James Hutchison Kerr in the Pioneers' Museum. Kerr recorded stories of old-timers, including the following from S. M. Buzzard in 1915:

It's about Fred Roberts, a horse-trader who was justice of the peace in Colorado City for many years. He freighted between Denver and New Mexico, and enjoyed stopping at a particular farm on Fountain Creek for fresh buttermilk.

Coming from the south on a warm day, he looked forward to a cool glass, and found he had arrived just as churning was in progress. The lid to the churn was missing, so the woman had substituted her young son, setting him atop the churn, clad only in his shirt, to keep the contents from splashing out while the churn dasher was in use!

When the churning was done, the woman poured some buttermilk into a carefully cleaned bowl. Says Buzzard, "It looked all right, but having seen too much he took a chew of tobacco and excused himself, saying he had a kind of a stomach ache. After this he always managed to pass the house after dark."

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Old Colorado City Historical Society
Friday, Mar. 10, 1989

ROLL CALL

from our last meeting:

Shame on those of little faith who didn't attend our February meeting—faith that even when you're snowed in and temperatures are 14 below, robins will be flying through the roses by the end of the week, when we meet. Even so, counting our speakers and guests, 28 were present for the meeting. The church circle kindly allowed a couple of extra diners and served 25 lunches. The rugged members that signed in as present were:

Sally Brawner	Scott Hogg
Vera Chambon	Dave Hughes
Bertha Chilcott	Joyce Johns
Carl Chilcott	John Keller
Ralph Conner	Ruth Walsh Kruse
Virginia Cox	Elizabeth Mares
John W. Croff	Ruth Maxwell
Ed Curry	Lyn Owen
Martha Curry	Eunice Quinn
Lucile Ellis	Bob Smith
Betsy Evans	Frances White
Veda Goosman	

VISITORS

Edna Francisco Pooler visited from Fort Francisco, LaVeta, Colorado.

Carolyn Churchill and Aubrey West were welcome leaders of the History Day contingent.

We're pleased that Ingrid Capen, Amy Scott and Michael Palsgrove are good enough students that their teachers were willing for them to stay for lunch.

NEXT MEETING:

11 am, April 14th

Trinity U. M. Church, 1920 Henderson
For luncheon reservations please call
Lyn Owen, 473-1846.

WEST WORD

Vol. IV, Number 8 March 10, 1989

Published the second Friday of almost every month by the Old Colorado City Historical Society, Post Office Box 6702, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 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 West-side Colorado Springs.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month (except July and August) at 11 a. m., usually at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1920 Henderson—west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center. The public is welcome and no reservation is needed for the program.

The meeting is followed by a luncheon, served by people of the church. Cost is \$4 per person. Reservations are required and can be made by phoning Lyn Owen, 473-1846. Deadline is normally noon the Wednesday before the meeting. Please call Lyn Owen to cancel if you find you cannot attend.

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual membership is \$5 a year; family membership is \$10. Memberships are welcome at any time; 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 projects which have been approved by 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		634-0895
Treasurer Orville Kenelly	471-0551	473-5307
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