

November 4, 1989

Audit Committee's Work is Completed

Our audit committee of Dave Hughes and Virginia Cox, has held several meetings and prepared a report for our board.

President Joyce Johns plans a board meeting in December to accept the audit and to pass the treasurer's office from Orville Kenelly to Rosemae Campbell. Ms. Campbell will be out of the country for the next month.

WestWord will report committee findings when the board accepts the audit and considers recommendations about treasurer's records, our relations with state and IRS, and amounts to be assigned to our endowment fund.

The board found our assets of \$131,799.95 are accounted for. But our failure to establish tax-exempt status with the IRS may make us liable for taxes on these resources. We don't know precisely why we failed to get tax-exempt status, but indications are that we must start the application anew.

Westsider Sharing Pictures, Memories

Joyce Johns is meeting with A. Eleanor Dunn, whose ties go to earliest Colorado City. Ms. Dunn is sharing early memories and indicates willingness to pass on historic materials to O.C.C.H.S.

Ms. Dunn's father, Percy Dunn, worked for the Colorado Midland and traced roots to Britain and Pennsylvania. Her mother, Alice M. Love, was a daughter of William A. Love, who came here in 1859, and Sarah Ann McFarland, from New York. An acquaintance treated Love to "the best piece of pie in Colorado!" and Love married the pie-baker, Sarah Ann McFarland. The Loves ranched in Fountain, and lived in the 2600 block on Colorado.

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We've had a chance to become acquainted with three people who joined us this month, since they visited at our meetings.

Loretta and Robert H. Gaarder are becoming active in several historic organizations, and joined at our October meeting.

We also welcome Charles E. Burroughs, who prefers to be called Gene.

Check the Furnace; Its Label's Wanted

This is the season of the year to check your furnace. But you may be able to do an unusual service while you're at it.

Nancy Cantrell's grandfather, Julius Kester, came to the region about the turn of the century, and went into partnership with Charles Robbins a few years later installing coal furnaces. The partnership lasted about ten years, although a company still bears the Robbins name today.

Each furnace installed by the firm carried a plate with the firm name, and Ms. Cantrell is eager to find a plate as a souvenir. She says they were brass, roughly four inches square, and contain the names "Kester and Robbins". She assumes there must have been many such furnaces installed on the west side.

If you have such a plate, please call her at 576-0216.

Her father exercised construction talents on many significant local buildings. He helped create the iron work at the County Court House (now the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum) when he first came to town; as a roofer he worked on the original Cheyenne School, what is now the Broadmoor Episcopal Church, the Printers' Home and Glen Eyrie.

Program Spotlights the Colorado Mounted Unit

The "Colorado Rangers," who began in days of posse justice, and who represented what little law and order there were in early days of Colorado Territory, still exist as a handsome volunteer cavalry show organization.

The story of these Rangers is the topic for this month's meeting of the Old Colorado City Historical Society, Nov. 10th. Program chair and vice president Jan Knox chose the topic as appropriate for the day before "Veterans' Day."

The Rangers were active in gold-rush days, during the Civil War, and in periods of Indian unrest. A member of the present-day organization will show us pictures and tell us the history.

Briefly:

This issue of WestWord is distributed jointly with the newsletter of Colorado City Associates, the organization of Westside businessmen and supporters.

Kathy Read is cheerfully editing the CAA newsletter, taking over from the capable hands of Sandi Hoewisch.

We were pleased to see Rosemary Hetzler back among us, after a period of illness and hospitalization.

Bertha Chilcott is laid up with knee surgery. We wish her speedy recovery and return.

Kay Arnold is in earthquake country but she hasn't entirely disappeared from the Pikes Peak region. Her crusade for the metric system was the basis of a column by Gladys Bueler in a recent issue of Senior Beacon.

Checks made out to O.C.C.H.S. have been deposited. If yours hasn't cleared, please contact the treasurer or secretary.

Westside Memories: Turning Back the Clock on Local Events

Twenty-five Years Ago

November, 1964

Gas explosion blew out walls of Cobweb Antiques, 2324 W. Colorado, allowed ceiling to fall. Hurling bricks damaged Capitol Motel next door.

For Education Week, West Junior had a Mother's Day and a Father's Day to let parents see four new rooms.

Boy, 15, dismayed judge with his car, stopped after police chase through Westside. Only 3 lug nuts on each wheel; gas tank in the trunk; motor tilted because of broken mounts; fuel pump bolted to grill fed gas by garden hose. 1950 Ford reached speeds of 45 m.p.h. for a little while.

New businesses and buildings: Al DeMark's body and paint shop, 2423 W. Cucharas; Naegele building at 21st and Freeway; 28 one-bedroom apartments at site of Queens Motel, 30th and Bijou. Rent at latter: \$69.50 a month unfurnished, \$79.50 furnished.

50,000 lbs. of supplies in 725 boxes stored in Manitou Jr. High—200-bed hospital with operating room, X-ray, pharmacy—in case of nuclear war.

Fifty Years Ago

November, 1939

Mrs. H. E. Webb, Mrs. Lucina Starr, Mrs. Ida Ellsworth, Mrs. O. M. Ellsworth, William H. Watson, Mrs. Ella Hardwick, Mrs. Florence Babb in Idaho celebrated 51st anniversary of arrival of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Watson. His brothers, Robert and Thomas, arrived in 1875 and had a ranch at entry to Garden of the Gods.

To clear Glen Eyrie's title, county treasurer proved \$77,000 estate taxes were paid on the \$2,807,107.50 estate of William J. Palmer, who died in 1909.

Arthur L. Humphrey, retired president and board chairman of Westinghouse Air Brake company, died in Pittsburgh; lived here 1895-1903, was a Colorado Midland superintendent.

14 Terror football players attended movies or Halloween parties, violating training rules; temporarily suspended.

Precipitation in October: .01 inch; half water storage of a year ago.

Edward Sweeney re-processed Portland Mill tailings, made \$2 a ton on 85 tons each day. Mill closed 20 years ago; became city property when Colorado Springs bought water rights.

"West Side Day" (24th) attracted hundreds. Ten turkeys turned loose at 25th and Colorado. Gas, 7 gals. for \$1;

Quality Market at 2510 W. Colorado had T-bones at 25¢ lb.; Cunningham's Cafe, 2507, had creamed turkey special for 25¢; pumpkin or mince pie for 20¢ at Kitchen Maid Bakery, 2430.

West Side Commercial Club concerned about accidents at 25th and 26th at the Midland tracks. No help from the railroad; it was deliberately left outside city limits when established, to excuse it from city taxes.

Westside Wolf Pack lightweights, coached by Harry Blunt, were unbeaten and untied in Young America football. Defeated Boys Club 6-0 in exhibition at halftime of Colorado College-Western State football game.

(Before 1917 Colorado City was an independent town.)

Seventy-five Years Ago

November, 1914

Nonrinkle Trunk Company established sales and manufacturing shop at 7th and Colorado, would employ 50.

Women's Study Club supplied materials for Belgian Relief. Sewing Circles met with Mrs. W. L. Harrison, 1712 Colorado (Col. Spgs.); Mrs. Duncan Lamont, 310 Jefferson; Mrs. P. J. Hamble, 826 Colorado.

Halloween pranksters put steam roller on streetcar tracks. When police arrived to move it, they nabbed 3 Colorado City boys. Since it took a span of horses to move the roller, boys persuaded police they hadn't put it there!

Streetcar pass list severely limited. Mailmen, Stratton employees, uniformed police outside city limits, must pay.

Post Office postponed consolidating Colorado City's postoffice with Colorado Springs after protests, and assuming there'd be a vote on annexation issue in April.

Colorado City Y.M.C.A. established at Standard Club, under F. B. Kistler.

Architect drew plans for a spacious addition to the Baptist Church. Last \$500 indebtedness of Congregational Church paid by J. C. Whiting.

A private kindergarten was opened in the basement of the National Hotel.

Pikes Peak Bakery offered a dozen doughnuts for 5¢, sold 500 dozen.

Mack's bought Mueth's store in Colorado Springs, would henceforth sell Colorado City products there.

Students exposed to small pox, so Bancroft school closed and fumigated.

State and county voted dry. Even Ramona precinct voted 107 to 60 for prohibition; Colorado City voted dry 712-533. 14 states were dry.

One Hundred Years Ago

November, 1889

Midland received 3 engines. Cog railroad ordered 3 locomotives, 6 cars.

Ute Pass Paint began manufacturing, hoped to manufacture 10 tons of paint each day.

Streetcar continued operation, despite a midnight fire at the company's branch stable on west Huerfano—where horses for the Colorado City line were kept. Of 14 horses, 9 escaped. Nearby lumberyard saved by volunteer firemen.

Midland reluctantly loaned its rotary snowplow to Denver-Texas-and-Fort Worth to unblock track in Raton mountains. Midland didn't like it so far away, said it must run at 10 m.p.h.

William Davis, 17, inspired sympathy even though he was found guilty of stealing from a family which befriended him. Born in Illinois, broom-maker by trade, he'd been in Golden reform school. S. H. Kinsley, on his behalf, pointed out the "temptations surrounding the young man at Colorado City." Judge Campbell sentenced him to 3 years at Canon City, but said he'd have him moved to the reformatory when it opened in Buena Vista.

Mary H. Stewart sought an injunction to block Colorado Springs from taking Bear Creek Water; she had water rights to 4 ditches, which held practically all Bear Creek water.

Colorado City's dog-killer, Mr. Eales, charged by the humane society with torturing a dog when he killed it.

Mrs. Jackson said the Colo. City W.C.T.U. had a lot for a hall and reading room. Gazette called it "the most active organization in this county."

Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Bates, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stansbrey, Mary M. Williams, Dr. C. R. Ammermann and Martin Drake formed a Baptist church, and hired Rev. F. M. Hart at \$50 for six months of service.

Electric Street Railway company in Colorado Springs, promised lines up Nevada and Willamette to Austin Bluffs, and to Colorado City. Angry letter next day said overhead wires would destroy attractive Nevada.

Midland switchmen struck unsuccessfully for two days, seeking day's pay for half-day work on Sunday.

125 Years Ago

November, 1864

Col. Chivington and a thousand men attacked an Indian Camp (on the 19th) near Sand Creek, killing 100 to 500 Indians with loss of dozen men or less.

McCandless Family Takes Bad Rap from Legend But Makes Proud Naval History

It would be difficult to find greater contrast between two men than that between Cobb McCandless and Bruce McCandless II. One, a rough and ready frontiersman who was a deputy sheriff at 15 and played a role in a frontier legend; the other, a sophisticated navy captain who is one of two men to float in space free of a space ship. Despite years and a difference in the spelling of names that separate the two men, they represent the same Southern Colorado family that was the subject of Rosemae Campbell's talk at our Oct. 13th meeting.

The family lives in Florence, but its roots stretch back to Ireland and Scotland, and hop across the nation from Philadelphia to Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, to Nebraska, before leading to Colorado.

Early family moves were dictated by Union sympathies during the Civil War, and the desire for a fresh start following the panic of 1857. David Colbert "Cobb" McCandless and his brother LeRoy joined the westward movement and settled in Rock Creek, Nebraska, to run a store and toll bridge on the Oregon trail.

The two brothers quarreled and broke up their business. LeRoy moved 20 miles and two counties away; Cobb settled on a hay ranch 4 miles from their store. The store was leased to an express company, which had among its employees a William Hickcock. When a dispute about rent arose, Cobb, 33, confronted Hickcock at the store, and "Wild Bill" shot Cobb through the heart in the presence of Cobb's 12 year old son, Monroe, who ran the four miles back home. When LeRoy settled the estate, Cobb's family was almost broke. The "victim" was clearly Cobb who was trying to collect a debt, but Harper's magazine published a story in 1867 which sensationalized the incident and made Hickcock a hero who gunned down a rapacious troublemaker. So much for Western legends!

Some 45 members of the family ultimately moved to Canon City and Florence where a permanent home was established. A newspaper erroneously printed their name as "McCandless," and since this struck the family as more stylish, a change was effected.

Their arrival was well-timed, for thanks to its smelter and railroad Florence was sharing in the Cripple Creek gold boom.

A key career decision was made by Byron, who applied for the U. S. Naval Academy. He arrived late in Colorado Springs for the qualifying exam, but took the remainder of it and was pleasantly surprised to learn later of his appointment as a naval cadet. He was graduated in 1905.

Byron proceeded with a distinguished naval career. He was on the U.S.S. Louisiana, part of Teddy Roosevelt's Great White Fleet, and made friends with the Japanese royal family. He established a navy flag book which was used through World War I, and exploded the Betsy Roth myth. He designed the presidential flag and earned the Navy Cross as a Destroyer commander.

His son Bruce also attended Annapolis, was graduated in 1933, and served on the battleship San Francisco during the battle of Guadalcanal. Despite wounds he led a successful carrier force.

His grandfather, Julius, who brought the family from Nebraska to Colorado, watched his descendants' distinguished naval careers with puzzlement. But on Dec. 12, 1942, at the age of 91, he listened on the radio to ceremonies at which Bruce was given the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Bruce II, an aviator, graduated second in his class at Annapolis in 1958. He became involved in the space program in 1966 and worked on jet-propelled backpacks. It was this product which allowed him in 1984 to explore space outside the space ship.

Member Recalls Area's "Reality" of Past Years

The July-August issue of "American Heritage," the history magazine, devoted a page to an editor's visit to Colorado Springs. He stopped off in Colorado City and mentioned his reaction to it.

We're pleased to note the response to the article which appeared in the November issue from Richard N. Current, a member of O.C.C.H.S. living now in South Natick, Mass.

He identifies himself as one of the few living natives of Colorado City, and expresses his pleasure at the attention given to it. But he corrects the editor's statement that Spencer Penrose made his money in Cripple Creek gold refineries. Mines were there, Current says, mills were in Colorado City.

He quotes the editor as saying, "[Colorado City] has the feel of a real place that the downtown [of Colorado Springs] somehow lacks." Comments Current, "Well, the business section of 'Old Colorado City' is now gussied up with phony frontier facades and is full of boutiques and other tourist traps. When I was a boy the City was, for tourists, only a stretch they had to get through on the way from the Springs to Manitou and Pikes Peak. It really had 'the feel of a real place' in those days."

We share Mr. Current's pleasure at the publicity, and we acknowledge the changing face of Old Colorado City. The rather grim "reality" of the 20's and 30's is another part of our history we want to keep, though patrons of groceries and drug stores have given way to in-town and out-of-town visitors attracted by eating establishments and unique shops. American Heritage article and Mr. Current's response point up the rich and varied heritage—and the undoubted "realness"—we're all trying to preserve. We look forward to the day when we'll incorporate this into a museum.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mary E. Wentzel, who currently lives in High Ridge, Missouri, says she and her husband William are planning to return to Colorado Springs, probably next Spring. She doesn't indicate whether this is a visit or a permanent return.

But she makes a suggestion of a project she's interested in which has considerable potential for research by other members.

She writes, "I am very interested in the stories about the pioneers buried in Evergreen Cemetery. We inquired at the cemetery office about two years ago about the availability of an informative booklet, and was told there was none available. In Evergreen Cemetery are buried many men and women whose lives contributed conspicuously to the westward growth of our country, and a visit to their graves may give a keener appreciation of our national heritage. Such a cemetery also forms a catalog of styles and tastes in memorial art, illustrating one phase of our cultural approach."

She supports her conviction in the value of such a booklet by proposing that she research and author it.

She plans to focus on Evergreen, and that represents a rich source of history. Why wouldn't such a pamphlet be useful for Fairview cemetery, as a project for the Old Colorado City Historical Society?

Obviously, we shouldn't "steal" her idea. But if her interest lies in Evergreen, we wouldn't be encroaching if we launched a similar project at Fairview, honoring Westside citizens.

We couldn't predict that such an effort would be profitable, but there's no doubt that it would be valuable to genealogists and of interest to visitors with roots in the community. Anybody interested in working on a Westside version of Ms. Wentzel's idea?

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Old Colorado City Historical Society
November 4, 1989

The Little Sculptress WOMEN IN LOCAL HISTORY Researched by Joyce Johns

Nellie Verne Walker's father made cemetery markers in Iowa. Nellie enjoyed her father's shop and she began helping by carving names and dates, and even the little lambs on children's gravestones.

In 1892, aged 17, she carved a likeness of Abraham Lincoln in just 24 days which was exhibited in the Iowa Building of Chicago's Columbian Exposition.

She studied under Loreda Taft at the Art Institute of Chicago and sculpted 45 major pieces, many of them in Colorado. In 1902, she made a death mask of Winfield Scott Stratton which she used in her Chicago studios to create the statue of Stratton which stands today at the Myron Stratton Home.

"The Lady Who Lived on Ladders" is her biography by Inez Hunt. The title is Ms. Walker's description of herself, reflecting her diminutive size, 4 ft. 10 inches tall.

ROLL CALL

from our last meeting:

We experimented with name tags to help everyone become acquainted. It's hard to beat a meeting at which 39 are present—including 36 members—and all the visitors become members. Members who signed in are:

Kay Arnold	John Keller
Helen Bassetti	Jan Knox
Sally Brawner	Katy Lapp
Rosemae Campbell	Aldine Lipe
Carl Chilcott	Lyn Owen
Ralph Conner	Bob Patoni
Virginia E. Cox	Arlene Rieger
Lucille Cunningham	Jim Rogers
Ed Curry	Virginia Rogers
Martha Curry	Liliane Ross
Lucile Ellis	Art Ruby
Veda Goosman	Clair Ruby
Nancy Graner	Bob Simons
Rosemary Hetzler	Martha Simons
Sandi Hoewisch	Bob Smith
Joyce Johns	Steve Stephens
Barb Keller	Wilma Stephens
	T. G. Van Camp

VISITORS

Gene Burroughs Bob Gaarder
Loretta Gaarder

Secretary's Expenses

Through Nov. 1, 1989

9/8 Speaker's lunch	\$4.00
10/6 4 negatives & 1 plate	7.40
10/6 Postage for 106 newsletters + 20¢	26.70
10/8 & 10/13 Postage. IRS	.50
10/13 Speaker's lunch, cash for two checks, 2 no-shows	20.00
10/16 Thank-you postage	.70
Total due secretary 11/1	59.30

THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

11 am, Nov. 10th

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

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING:

11 am, Dec. 8th

to be held at White House Ranch

WEST WORD

Vol. V, Number 2 Oct. 4, 1989

Published the first 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 Westside Colorado Springs.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month (except June, 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 be phoned if they wish 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	Joyce Johns	635-4649
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