

January 1, 1990

Board Approves All Recommendations

The Board of the Old Colorado City Historical Society renewed efforts to gain tax exemption, guided finances, and accepted the report of the Audit Committee at a meeting Dec. 7.

The Board approved hiring **Judith Kasten** to prepare and submit a new application for tax exempt status. She assisted with our original application, which was lost on its way to the I.R.S., and is familiar with our organization and the Internal Revenue Service. She operates an accounting business on the West Side.

Board okayed rental of a safe deposit box at Pikes Peak National Bank. **Rosemae Campbell** accepted the job as treasurer from **Orville Kenelly**, and with the secretary began paperwork to record signatures of new officers at our financial institutions.

A certificate of deposit at World Savings maturing Dec. 18 was rolled over, but since our deposits there are approaching \$100,000 the treasurer was instructed to withdraw interest payments. A certificate at Bank Western maturing Jan. 12 will also be renewed, but in this case interest will be reinvested.

The board designated \$7,914.08 as Operating Funds. This was interest earned from our certificates of deposit and the board could designate the sum for current expenses or as Endowment. We have an added \$2,633.60 in operating funds in our bank account. While there are no real estate deals in the works, money might be needed for an option; and we don't know if we'll have a tax obligation for the period when we lack tax exempt status.

The Board approved recommendations of the Audit Committee, which called for the treasurer's

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We welcome three new members who joined during their first visit with us in December.

Margaret L. Nichols is a Westsider living on Crown Ridge Rd.

George W. Fisher and **Raymond F. Ziegler** are both active in several historical and collectors' organizations, and the Mineralogical Society.

records to be kept in formal bookkeeping style, with balance statements to be issued quarterly, or on request of the board. It agreed to consider hiring a professional bookkeeper if the treasurer sees a need for it.

Dave Hughes and **Virginia Cox** were thanked for their work as the audit committee.

The committee reported assets Oct. 24, 1989, of \$131,799.95, of which \$121,792.27 is in the Endowment Fund. Endowment assets can be spent only with approval of two-thirds of the membership.

The board approved expenditure of \$60 for a bulk mailing permit to simplify joint mailing of our newsletter with that of the Old Colorado City Associates (the merchants group) or for future mailings of our own. Membership is too small now to support bulk mailing of our newsletter alone; 400 items in a single zip code are needed to qualify for bulk rates.

The board discussed without action the need to clarify ownership of artifacts now on hand; and wisdom of someday establishing a museum board, independent of O.C.C.H.S., to concentrate on supervising museum affairs.

Board meeting Dec. 12, 1989. Present: **Rosemae Campbell**, **Vera Chambon**, **Ralph Conner**, **Virginia Cox**, **Dave Hughes**, **Joyce Johns**, **Leon Young**.

This Month's Meeting:

Sandi Hoewisch Reviews Written Communication

O.C.C.H.S. member **Sandi Hoewisch** will speak at 11 when our meetings resume at Trinity United Methodist Church Jan. 12.

Her interest in design—the basis of her Colorado Avenue business—extends to written language and printing. She taught the subject at Pikes Peak Community College.

Her talk promises interesting new angles on our language. She says printing conveys ideas by the form of letters and words, as well as by the meaning of the words themselves. Typography and design go in and out of fashion.

Newspapers, Maps Shared by Poulton

Curt Poulton recently gave us two issues of the Colorado Springs Telegraph of July, 1916 (headline: "Mountain Is Blown Up Burying Austrian Army").

He has also been sharing maps he discovered or created in connection with his research on the region's early water history as part of his PhD program. We acknowledge with appreciation his thoughtfulness and generosity.

Could You Supply a Ride to a Member?

If you can give a member a ride to our meetings occasionally, please mention the fact to **Lyn Owen** when you talk to her about a reservation. She'll match you up with someone who doesn't have transportation.

Anyone who drives "across town" would be especially welcome, since you may be able to pick up a member without going out of your way.

Westside Memories: Turning Back the Clock on Local Events

Twenty-five Years Ago

January, 1965

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Ebersole, 2305 W. Platte, found old newspapers of Mrs. Ebersole's father, J. C. McCreary, some dating to the Revolutionary War. McCreary had published the Colorado City Iris, Argus, Independent, Journal, and Manitou Journal.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Schoch bought an electric machine to thread pipe.

More than 100 Air Force Academy cadets resigned in a cheating scandal.

John Ferguson, 524 W. Bijou, last survivor of Caledonian Club, died at 90. He operated a grocery at Chestnut and Bijou for 42 years.

Melvin Gregory moved news stand from Busy Corner to 2524 W. Colorado.

Burford Lee Wyckoff, Lee's Liquors, 512 W. Colorado, exchanged shots with a man hiding in Wyckoff's car.

Dist. 11 asked city to annex two blocks and part of Pine Street in Calvert Heights addition.

Robert joined father Richard and brother Edward in Hayes Motor Co., 24 S. Walnut, which opened in 1939.

Fifty Years Ago

January, 1940

Golden Cycle accidents: Sylvaine E. Ridder, 15 S. 14th, lost an arm; Warren Wells, 1520 W. Platte, lost 2 fingers.

Zoners OK'd R.M. and J.C. Amis' 6-unit motor court, 2702 W. Colorado.

Eighth Street was closed 3 days for re-decking of Bear Creek bridge.

Sen. Duncan Lamont, 74, had a fatal stroke at his home, 212 N. 23rd.

Dry 1939 left water storage down 60% from previous year.

Clarence Seitz, Social Security manager, guessed 80 locals qualified for Social Security but only half would apply for \$10-\$85 monthly payments.

Dr. D. Winternitz, Mrs. J.O. Shields won mixed-team bowling at Broadmoor.

Motorists taking shelter from severe weather in tunnel #3 on Corley road built a fire which ignited timber and nearly destroyed the tunnel.

Plans for new administration building at Peterson Field were scaled back because of costs; contract let for tearing down south wall of main post office to construct an addition.

Lower freight rates reduced gas prices 1¢ to 17¢, 19¢ and 21¢ a gallon.

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Old Colorado City Historical Society
January 1, 1990

Seventy-five Years Ago

January, 1915

Pres. W. S. Everett said Colorado City Commercial Club had 121 members; the group held an oyster supper.

Colorado College faculty allowed students to start basketball program, but forbade dancing in Cossitt hall.

In 1914 county Humane Officer W.S. Reynolds investigated cases involving 69 men, 119 women and 257 children. He destroyed 168 animals.

Inroads by autos: Midland Terminal ended a train to Cripple Creek, but to keep postal franchise substituted auto trip; street car company said it could afford to sponsor 2, instead of 5, of 9 weekly Stratton Park concerts.

Agriculture Dept. approved road up Pikes Peak for autos and carriages, to be completed June 1. Old wagon road was virtually impassible. Move started to have Peak summit made Nat'l Park.

El Paso county 1914 auto fees totalled \$6,934, second only to Denver with \$27,881; Delores county had \$2.

73-mile Colorado Springs-Denver phone line was longest single stretch in country; could handle 50 calls. Springs' office had 6,500 subscribers. Service between Manitou and Colorado Springs interrupted for days because of a fire. President Wilson inaugurated coast-to-coast phone service.

Merchants discussed placing electric lights in front of Colorado City stores on Colorado Avenue.

Special streetcar took Pioneer Asso. members to Evergreen cemetery for the funeral of William F. Dixon, who arrived in Colorado City in 1861.

Ashes in shed at rear of 524 Lincoln [2525 W. Pikes Peak] destroyed house owned by Charles Minium, occupied by Harold Williams; it damaged R. Quinby home next door; and ignited George Birdsall's home across street.

Commission left annexation issue to peoples' vote. Springs would assume assets and liabilities of Colorado City, would keep City library and cemetery.

Pueblo-style "Hidden Inn" was constructed in the Garden of the Gods.

Train from Cresson mine with million dollars in ore and armed guards passed on way to Denver Globe plant.

State legislature considered law to prohibit married women from teaching.

District Attorney said 40% of men in county jail were addicted to drugs; he urged more outdoor exercise to strengthen bodily and moral fiber.

One Hundred Years Ago

January, 1890

As 1889 ended in Colorado City: Avg. school attendance, 185 a day. Churches grew from 1 to 4.

New Glassworks hired 115, made 1500 dozen bottles a day; E. C. Modes resigned as manager.

New Ute Pass Paint company: 10 tons dry, 12 tons manufactured, 1 ton putty products daily.

Midland railroad had 185 Colorado City employees.

Greenlee quarry used 120 men in 3 quarries in warm months; Snyder had 35 men; produced 5-15 carloads a day.

Col. City Stucco/Cement re-opened. Newspapers were Colorado Chieftan (daily), News and Iris (weeklies).

Rumor was Adolph Busch would erect branch of his St. Louis Brewery.

Cog road crews totaled 800 men, 100 teams. Grading almost done; then would install lights every 400 feet to speed track-laying. Road paid Iron Springs Chateau \$6,450 for right-of-way thru hotel property to cog depot.

West Colorado Springs school [Washington] opened. Board wouldn't allow church services there, so community began to build a Union chapel.

El Paso Rapid Transit Co. bought control of CS&Manitou Street Railway.

Alexander Graham Bell and wife visited Deaf Mute Institute. Bell's wife and mother were both deaf.

Barker House in Manitou would operate all year once it installed a hydraulic elevator and hot air furnace.

60 x 60 foot, two-story high school in Colorado Springs was destroyed by fire. Built 1873-1875. Gazette: "...a better building will be the result."

Pipes of Manitou Mineral Water company froze, burst, closed down the works. It was a disappointment, since it sought to build up supplies to cover closure during move to new building.

Colorado City citizens discussed establishing their own electric plant. Merchants subscribed to 200 incandescent lights and 25 arc lights.

E. J. Eaton retired after 10 years as county clerk. He succeeded Irving Howbert, succeeded by F. W. Howbert.

Chinese lantern burning on second floor of Stockbridge home when guests went downstairs to eat caught building on fire, destroyed home, instruments and music of a Colorado Springs' band.

Rev. F. W. Hart announced Baptist Church in Colorado City, on land at Lincoln and East donated by Mrs. Jane Quimby. To be built of red sandstone.

We Returned "Home for the Holidays" to the White House Ranch

Orchard House was set for holiday festivities, and on Dec. 8 members of the Old Colorado City Historical Society enjoyed a tour of the historic country estate and savored the good life from the turn of the century.

Orchard House—at one time the "White House" that gave White House Ranch its name—is part of a city-owned historic site which saw incarnations as a homesteader's home, a working ranch and as the Orchard House suburban estate.

Carol Kennis, Lead Interpreter at the ranch, led our group of about 20 through the building and enthusiastically told us of its history and use.

(See **WestWord**, Jan., 1988, for a general history of White House Ranch, as reported by **Kathy Read**.)

After the site served as a homestead for Walter Galloway in 1861, and for twenty-six years as a ranch and truck farm for the Chambers family, the property was sold to William Palmer in 1900 as an adjunct to his Glen Eyrie estate. Cattle grazed near apple and cherry trees which ultimately gave Orchard House its name.

In 1907, Palmer hired prominent local architect Thomas MacLaren to build a home for William and Charlotte Selater. Mrs. Charlotte Seymour Mellen Stephenson Selater was a half sister of Mrs. Palmer, and had known Palmer all her life.

Because the Selaters had lived in South Africa, MacLaren captured aspects of the Dutch colonies and blended them with more local Spanish style.

THE HOUSE WAS NOT BUILT in the Victorian manner which was popular locally; rather the architecture is Edwardian and reacts against the ornateness of the earlier day. Mission-style furniture also reflects this plainer appearance.

Selater was a prominent ornithologist; he continued his bird-study in the brief time he lived in Colorado and served as director of the Colorado College museum. His bird displays went to CU, but White House ranch wants to bring them "home."

The Selaters returned to Britain after the death of Palmer in 1909, having lived in the house about 13 months out of a two-year period. Mr. Selater died in 1944 in London during the war-time blitz, when many of his memorabilia were destroyed.

The home's original pink/beige color "matched" the Garden of the Gods. The east side had a pergola (an unroofed porch with large beams overhead), and an indoor-outdoor breakfast room connecting with the entrance on the opposite side.

We entered at the west entrance which has a cloak room and lavatory off of it so guests could freshen up. To our right was the comfortable study, and beyond that the parlor for formal entertaining.

We Came to Orchard House Too Late for Shakers, Too Early for Hannukkah Ceremony

Every effort is made to make the building authentic. Ms. Kennis said that you must begin with lots of work which will not be obvious in the finished restoration. When the Selaters occupied the house, for example, carpets were woven with a maximum width of 27 inches, and the wall-to-wall carpeting now on the floor was authentically stitched together from carpet of that width.

In many ways the house was quite modern, with electricity, steam radiators and several bathrooms. The Selaters probably had a Christmas tree with electric lights, and while a cheerful tree stood in the parlor during our visit, no authentic lights have been located. Ms. Kennis pointed out, however, that the Christmas tree was an innovation; President Pierce had the first White House tree in 1856.

WE CROSSED THE CENTRAL HALL to the dining room, splendidly laid out for a later Hannukkah observance—one of a series of holiday activities that make White House Ranch busy at year end. The Sunday before, Shaker traditions had been on display; a week later a Scottish New Year's celebration—a "Hogmany"—was scheduled; and on the 17th a formal, 10-course holiday meal was to be served in the same dining room, with guests and servants—or at least their costumes—resurrected from the turn-of-the-century.

Part of the restoration work in the dining room has been salvaging a china hutch which had been covered over, and re-opening a serving window from the good-sized butler's pantry.

Beside the pantry is the large kitchen, dominated by a coal-burning stove sitting on the original tile floor. Off the kitchen is a pastry pantry and a servants' dining room. "Luxury" was shown by a door which allowed ice delivery directly into the kitchen, and rat-proof storage bins.

On one wall is the annunciator, attached to call buttons in every room so servants could be summoned conveniently. A narrow servants' stairway led to the third floor, where four rooms and a bathroom served the staff.

Over the kitchen in the north end were the bath and bedrooms for guests, and in the south part of the second floor were family bedrooms and the morning room which served the family day-by-day and saved the parlor for formal events.

Restoration is still under way, and much is yet to be done on the second floor. But there is no difficulty in imagining turn-of-the-century life among the well-to-do. The Selater home was not ostentatious, but they lived well. Even their servants enjoyed comforts which had not yet been established in many homes in nearby Colorado City.

Japanese "Miracle" Excites Trolley Fans

O.C.C.H.S. member John Haney figures there's been one miracle, but he's hoping for a second one.

Hiroshima (Japan) Electric Railway scrapped a trolley and donated the wheelset (trucks) to the Pikes Peak Historical Street Railway Foundation of Colorado Springs, of which Haney is Curator and Vice President. The trucks, common in the '20's and '30's, have since disappeared.

But the local group must pay transportation. The trucks will fit an interurban they already own, and may be adaptable to a car of the Colorado Springs and Manitou Street Railway which has been promised. Street cars last ran in 1932, but the Foundation is working to restore service.

The foundation desperately needs \$6,800 to pay shipping. The Westside has a stake, for the trolley will be a key attraction here when service is restored.

If you can help create the second miracle, send a check to the Pikes Peak Historical Railway Foundation, 1211 N. Corona, Colorado Springs, 80903. John's phone is 632-5776.

The wheels will be scrapped if the organization can't raise the money, and a priceless relic of our past will be lost forever!

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January 1, 1990

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

ROLL CALL

from our last meeting:

We had a good meal and a good turnout for the Mason Jar and White House Ranch on Dec. 8. 31 had lunch. Members who signed in were:

Kay Arnold	Rosemary Hetzler
Helen Bassetti	Sandi Hoewisch
Sally Brawner	Agnes Johnson
Gene Burroughs	Elizabeth S. Mares
Rosemae Campbell	Ruth Maxwell
Bertha Chilcott	Lyn Owen
Carl Chilcott	Kathy Read
Ralph Conner	Jim Rogers
Virginia Cox	Virginia Rogers
John W. Croff	Bob Simons
Lucille Cunningham	Martha Simons
Ed Curry	Sharron Uhler
Martha Curry	Frances White
Lucile Ellis	

VISITORS

Jim Clark	Margaret Nichols
George Fisher	Ray Ziegler

○ Secretary's Expenses

TO JAN. 1, 1990

Postage (mins., mbrsh cards)	4.15
318 stamps @ 13.2¢ (nwsltrs)	41.98
4 negs. & plate, Jan. nwsltr	7.40
Total due sec't as of 1/1/90	53.53

○ Treasurer's Report

As of Dec. 11, 1989

ROSEMAE CAMPBELL, TREASURER

Pikes Peak Nat'l Checking	\$ 2,803.64
3 certificates of deposit	129,166.35
Total cash assets	131,969.99
Outstanding bills	
Sec'y's expenses Oct. & Nov.	127.07
Balance 12/8/1989	131,842.02

THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

11 am, Jan. 12

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

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING:

11 am, Feb. 9th

WEST WORD

Vol. V, Number 5 Jan. 1, 1990

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.