

Sept. 1, 1990

IRS Grants OCCHS Tax-Exempt Status

We're pleased to report that, early in August, the Internal Revenue Service "determined you are exempt from Federal income tax...as an organization described in section 501(c)(3)" effective April 20, 1990.

This is the tax-exempt status we've been seeking which will allow individuals to deduct contributions to us from their income tax returns. The I.R.S. designation was needed before we could be considered for grants from foundations. Gifts made before April 20, 1990, aren't deductible.

Efforts to achieve this status ran into difficulties and held up long-range planning and fund-raising efforts. An application with revisions and additions, which should have led to tax-exempt status, was mis-directed or lost in 1989 and made it necessary to begin again. We received invaluable help in our re-application from Judith Kasten of J. A. Kasten Accounting, Inc., and she is guiding us regarding possible tax liabilities.

The I.R.S. action is subject to later confirmation, so we'll need to submit additional material soon after Dec. 31, 1994 to maintain our status.

Deductions can be taken only if "contributions are gifts, with no consideration received." Thus, membership fees are NOT deductible, since members receive this newsletter and perhaps other services in return for their payments.

Our new status clears the way for the long-range planning and decision-making, regarding a museum, which we must do before we seek grants and donations or plan property purchases.

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We welcome three new members, two of whom join us after becoming acquainted during Territory Days.

Geraldine M. Iverson joined us early in May.

Joe Clarke signed up during the summer.

Gary Petri visited us at the cabin and mailed in a membership.

B. Gaarder Joins Board; Officers are Re-elected

At our annual meeting May 11, the following were re-elected to the board for two-year terms: Ralph Conner, Jan Knox, Ruth Maxwell, and Leon Young. Also elected was new board member Bob Gaarder. He replaces Orville Kennely, whose professional duties make it impossible for him to attend our meetings. Motion to re-elect made by Sally Brawner, seconded by Liliane Ross.

On May 23, 1990, these board members met: Rosemae Campbell, Vera Chambon, Ralph Conner, Virginia Cox, Bob Gaarder, David Hughes, Joyce Johns, Ruth Maxwell and Leon Young.

On a motion by Dave Hughes, seconded by Leon Young, the board re-elected the present slate of officers for another year.

The board approved prizes to be offered in the guess-the-beans contest for Territory Days.

Ralph Conner, Dave Hughes and Leon Young were named as a steering committee to consider a building or site for a museum, on a motion by Rosemae Campbell seconded by Vera Chambon.

(For the record, O.C.C.H.S. has purchased \$60,000 in government two-year notes, paying 8½% interest, dated May 23, 1990.)

City Midland Plan Will Be Described

Colorado Springs is making long-term plans for the Midland Corridor, and its decisions will influence arrangements O.C.C.H.S. must make regarding its museum.

To review progress along Monument and Fountain creeks we'll hear from Chuck Miller, Deputy Director of Community Development for the city, when our meetings resume Sept. 12th.

Arrangements remain the same: meeting at 11 am at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1920 Henderson (public welcome, no reservation needed); luncheon at noon—reservations must be made with Lyn Owen, 473-1846.

Mr. Miller will concentrate on plans for the area beside the Midland Expressway, west of 21st St., where a tourist center is anticipated which could tie in with a streetcar revival (see item on page 4), and with Midland and Colorado Avenue commercial activities.

Our museum would benefit from being near a tourist center. We have a natural tie-in with the proposed streetcar line: we would be a destination for tram-riders, and could build displays to reinforce the "living history" that the restored street railway will represent.

Getting Reservation Just Became Easier

By the time you receive this, Lyn Owen should have a telephone-answering machine in operation for the convenience of members. They can phone her at any time to make or cancel reservations. She will continue to call those she does not hear from, but welcomes messages at your convenience when a meeting is coming up. Her number: 473-1846.

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

Twenty-five Years Ago

September, 1965

Pikes Peak National planned a one-story-and-basement building at 24th and Colo.; added W. C. Skovgaard, D. E. Higdon to staff. Colorado Interstate would build at Pikes Peak and Nevada.

Remodeling of Old Colony Restaurant, 3020 W. Colorado, began after J. R. Harley sold his interest to F. P. Downtain and Charles M. Jett.

Homestake tunnel holed through; it was to supply water in another year.

Developer planned all-season resort on Pikes Peak near Crystal Reservoir.

G-T wrote up amateur radio interests of Eldon J. Lewis family, 2630 W. Willamette. Four had ham licenses, a fifth was working on one. Larry, 18, reached 3 neighbors with a 100-milowatt broadcasting station.

Fifty Years Ago

September, 1940

For the first time, Chipta Park post office remained open for the winter.

Cloudburst west of Adams crossing in Plainview section of Manitou: debris on streets and in Crystal Valley cemetery; Incline and Cog tracks damaged. Two feet of water in Toot and Tell'em restaurant.

Al Rogers (15:56.9) nosed out Louis Unser in Hill Climb; Bus Hammond was third. Of 14 entered, 12 finished.

Broadmoor Garden Club gave \$100 to Don Shannon of Mesa Road filling station at Walnut, for best landscaping.

Authorities said draft registration of men 21-35 would touch 6,300 county men. In 8 months of 1940, 200 enlisted.

Waymire's advertised a refund on clothing purchased by any young man who was subsequently drafted.

Paul Borchert, Broadmoor manager, learned his brother and niece died in German bombing of their home in the Netherlands, near the German border.

Whittier students charged 1¢ to see "wild animals"—cats labeled as panthers, dogs called wolves. \$4.30 given to Red Cross and Community Chest.

Countess Gladys Cornet du Ways Ruart renounced her title, became Mrs. Cornet. The daughter of Mrs. Penrose married a Belgian count in 1914.

Census bureau guessed Springs had 12,633 dwellings, 842 of them empty.

Springs-to-Manitou buses every 10 mins. to 7:30 pm, then 20-min. service.



(Before 1917 Colorado City was an independent town.)

Seventy-five Years Ago

September, 1915

In court, Ramona argued that Colorado Springs HAD to supply water to lots purchased by Ramona. Springs said it was selling water to those getting it before; only saloons were being denied.

Jacob Fry won a suit against his daughter, Grace, charging she withheld from his wife property at 315 Jackson.

Manitou's 104-room Mansions hotel, constructed about 1878 by Dr. Bell and occupied only by a caretaker, was destroyed by an early-morning fire.

Four-year-old Union Depot Commission disbanded by Colorado Springs.

245 cars, 1,400 people stayed at City's auto campground in past summer season. Independent editorialized in favor of paving Colorado Ave.

Modern times? Springs police used fingerprints for the first time to prove guilt of man suspected of burglary. Nationally, wireless telephone transmitted the human voice from Virginia to California, midst predictions we could soon radio across the Atlantic.

Five Colorado City pastors asked enforcement of law forbidding Sunday operation of "theaters, circuses and shows". Target was Idle Hour theater.

Trueman Bundy, 5, walked to Peak summit in 9 hours, returned in 5½ hours. Missouri youngster was delayed because he took his parents with him, paused to let them catch their breath!

New records? Men drove to Cripple Creek in 1 hr. 30 mins; returned 1 hr. 13½ mins. later (total of 84 miles). August Kesseling walked from Manitou to Peak summit in 3 hrs. 25 mins.; returned in less than 2 hours. Previous climbing record was over four hours.

Peak Auto Highway completed for 12 miles; formal opening and barbeque held at Glen Cove with 15 touring cars of VIPs and newsreel men. Two windmill pumps and streams supplied water for cars' hard journey. "Plans are already in a preliminary stage for national hill-climbing contests for autos on the highway." [Gazette]

Colorado City schools opened with 20 high school seniors—the most ever. Florence Brown inaugurated domestic science course in Bancroft room for girls in eighth grade and above.

Mrs. Polly Ann Weed Strodes, once of Colorado City, died a widow in Indiana at 73. She was wed 13 times, to 11 different men, and was advertising for a husband when she died.

One Hundred Years Ago

September, 1890

Federal government said A. G. Lewis had a conflict of interest in claiming the summit of Pikes Peak as a homestead while acting as custodian of abandoned government weather station. George D. Weir of Manitou became custodian, but Cog road was allowed to use buildings. Weir moved off the mountain for the winter, but left his lodgings open and a supply of firewood for use of up to 20 people a day still taking the carriage road to the summit.

Thousand-gallon tank arrived for the Glassworks, to store oil for heating flint-glass furnaces.

120 men laid 600-800 feet of cog-road rails a day. All equipment was on hand, so only weather could stop work.

Newly-formed Boulevard association, headed by J. B. Wheeler, with Dr. Bell and J. B. Glasser, planned improved road between Manitou and Colorado Springs. Contract for work given to Richard Clough and H. G. Thornton.

Chieftan wanted irrigation ditches to be piped to save evaporation and prevent ditch overflow and breaking.

No official confirmation, but apparently the Santa Fe bought the Midland railroad and its 274 miles of track. Rumor was it paid \$50 or more a share for stock which originally sold for \$33. Santa Fe worker said it could mean expanded Colorado City yards.

Street railway company began work on an extension to Manitou, and ordered seven closed cars. New cars were to be dark green, and older cars would probably be made that color as they needed repainting. Company wrapped some of its electric poles with wire, to discourage idle whittling which seriously weakened them.

Fire destroyed the Hiawatha barn and a team of valuable horses, but the attached kitchen/laundry was saved.

James Miller, searching for stray cattle, ran into a nest of rattlesnakes 20 miles east of Falcon. He set himself to killing them, ended up with three snakes about 4½ feet in length, and 36 small ones, averaging a foot long.

Contributions Are Down During Territory Days But Youngsters Guess the Bean Supply Enthusiastically

Among exhibits in the Garvin Cabin in Bancroft during Territory Days, May 26-28, was food early settlers might have had on hand.

In the larder was a glass jar of beans. We invited youngsters to guess how many beans there were, and they happily responded. We found that ADULTS were eager to try their estimating skills, too!

Other features this year were volunteers Jean Sheetz and Paul Kunkle who demonstrated lost skills; and Ruth Maxwell's heirloom quilt from the early 1900's. (See pictures and caption below-right.)

We asked visitors to sign in to become honorary citizens of Colorado City, and to tell their "home town." We recorded 1,572 names, more than last year despite being closed Sunday morning.

Home towns were in 45 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and nine foreign countries.

Comments ranged from "It was rad" to "Boring, but it's history!"

We offered buttons so honorary citizens could flaunt their status, but they were less novel, and we had one less shift, so contributions totaled \$130.13, compared with \$255.36 last year. If don't think sales is an art, just watch Lucille Cunningham "sell" buttons to people who didn't know they needed one!

We gratefully recognize members active in Territory Days:

Button-maker:

Joyce Johns

Exhibit set-up:

Ralph Conner

Joyce Johns

Liliane Ross

Chauffeurs:

Ed and Martha Curry

Joyce Johns

Jim Rogers

Shift workers:

Kay Arnold (3)

Sally Brawner

Virginia E. Cox (2)

Lucille Cunningham (2)

Joyce Johns (2)

Ruth Maxwell (2)

Lyn Owen (2)

Liliane Ross (2)

Winners Identified

We had 724 entries in our guess-the-beans contest ranging down from 356,789,101,215!

Since two youngsters in the 8-12 category made identical prize-winning estimates, we gave an extra \$5 prize. Whitney Wheelock and Laura Phillips, both 11 and from Colorado Springs, each guessed 3,500. There were 3,512 beans in the jar. In the 0-7 category, Brandon Knoles, 5, Gallatin Gateway, Montana, said there were 3,600 beans.

Artisans Volunteer

ABOUT THE PICTURES

(Left) Jean Sheetz, member of the Pikes Peak Weavers' Guild, demonstrates spinning to a visitor. Working and explaining most of May 26th, she filled one spindle.

Note Ruth Maxwell's wool-stuffed quilt in the background.

(Photo, Ken Jordan, courtesy of Colorado City Associates.)

(Right) Paul T. Kunkle, teacher and practitioner of chair caning and refinishing, shows off his rare skills on May 27th and 28th outside the Garvin cabin.

(Photo, Ann Kunkle)



Authentic Colorado City Trolley Coming

The Pikes Peak Historical Street Railway Foundation is moving ahead to restore trolley service between Colorado Springs and Old Colorado City. Curator and vice president **John Haney** says the organization is beginning a feasibility study, under leadership of **Royann Killoren**, to find the financial support to put car 59 on rails along Fountain Creek.

Car 59 was part of the local streetcar enterprise, built in 1901; it spent most of its years on the Colorado Springs-Manitou Springs route through Colorado City, sometimes with a trailer during the tourist season.

When streetcars ceased in 1932, the car became a wood-work and repair shop, with stable attached. The organization salvaged what's left of the original car and moved it to Ghost Town. Haney says they'll restore it as authentically as possible, ready to run with overhead power lines.

Haney says the Foundation is looking for people to join it in restoration and in organizing support. His phone is 632-5776.

Church and CS Pioneer Museum Donate Seating

A summer project for Old Colorado City Historical Society was moving several dozen theater-type seats into storage from the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum. **John Keller** and **Ralph Conner** moved the plywood and metal seats in John's pickup truck.

The chairs were donated to the Pioneers Museum by the Calvary Chapel, 212 E. Vermijo. The museum expected to use their parts to repair seats in the museum's courtroom. When they were found to be unsuitable, registrar **David Ryan** offered them to us. They're not "historic," but they're a potentially useful refinement for our museum-to-be. We appreciate the generosity of the church and museum.

2 Sets of Historical Pictures Are Given

O.C.C.H.S. has benefited recently from several thoughtful and generous additions to our photograph collection.

Bob Patoni gave us a large collection of slides and photos used for publicity and planning during the Community Development projects in the '70's. Some are historic, others are "before" pictures along Colorado Avenue prior to remodeling homes and businesses. They're a vital record of Westsides' recent history.

We welcome a gift from **John Graham**, publisher of the Pikes Peak Journal, of some of the newspaper's pictures of the fire which destroyed our Second City Hall. We're pleased to be the repository of historic records.

We also gratefully acknowledge pictures taken during Territory Days by **Ken Jordan** and **Ann Kunkle** (page 3).

Accessioning Continues During Summer Months

Though O.C.C.H.S. goes into summer hibernation, certain activities continue. The vital and long-term effort of accessioning hundreds of historic items has never stopped.

Each item which may someday be part of a museum display is carefully identified, marked and described. **Liliane Ross**, who handled such work at the Pioneer Museum, is guiding the effort, and has completed two major categories of memorabilia donated by **Luther McKnight**—his record and license plate collections.

Joyce Johns, who also has Pioneer Museum experience, is handling the archives—books, notes, printed material—which are valuable both for exhibits and as an interesting part of our research library.

Virginia Cox assists on occasion, and **Ralph Conner** is recording McKnight's extensive sheet music collection from the World War One era and beyond.

Portia Club Checks West's Architecture

A summertime group visit to Westside was made by the Portia Club, which had a particular interest in our architecture. **Martha Curry** is president of the organization and conducted the tour, assisted by **Ralph Conner**. The group walked the Avenue, then had a picnic lunch.

Briefly:

Kenny Engler has kept a steady stream of donations coming from California. We frequently receive authentic old-time post-cards, and he sent a commemorative medal honoring Zebulon Pike and his expedition here. The bronze coin was issued in 1906 on the centennial of his visit.

Despite continuing efforts to save the Manitou incline, there's no evidence that the decision to close it is being reconsidered.

West Junior will be the site of Westside's Community Center. There's no decision whether added construction will be needed. The Center operates food and nutritional programs, housing, transportation and medical assistance, job training and recreational activities.

We don't officially have a computer, but the secretary's unofficial use of one got a boost in the donation of computer paper by **Virginia Cox**.

Next time you visit Manitou Springs, the town clock will be restored to its original grandeur and color.

Those of us who have occasion to talk to **Dave Hughes** on the phone must applaud the gift to his wife Patsy of her OWN phone. A Colorado City Associates' plaque recognized her as a "Territory Treasure" and in addition she was given her own phone line.

Speaking of applause, **Leon Young** has been getting a lot of it, starting with his conducting of the Symphony's rendition of the Stars and Stripes Forever in the Battle of the Batons in May.

Fire Destroys Colorado City Second City Hall Landmark

A stubborn fire, June 18th, 1990, wiped out Colorado City's second City Hall at 115-119 S. 26th. Loss was estimated at \$750,000. In historic terms, the loss was beyond calculation.

Fire developed on the unoccupied second floor, near Colorado City's former council chamber and courtroom. Electrical connections to a hot tub may have started the blaze, which apparently smoldered an hour before an alarm was turned in at 1:51 pm.

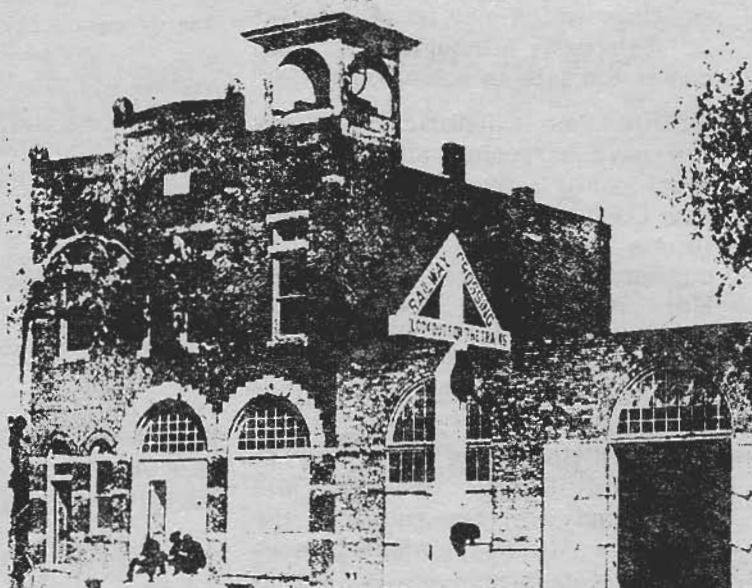
Seven fire companies fought the fire six hours. Heat from the burning wooden interior weakened the lime and cement mortar, and soon water from fire hoses began knocking down the brickwork.

There were no injuries, although Orly's Art Gallery and the Desert Rose Gallery were wiped out. A second-floor apartment and an empty shop below were totally destroyed. A sign east of the building was lost, a car parked nearby damaged, and a nursing home across the street to the west was evacuated as a precaution but was undamaged.

Ken Lindstrom owned the building. The Old Colorado City Historical Society board had discussed buying the structure for a museum, and it had been considered for a fire department museum.

Colorado City's first city hall and jail at 29th and Colorado — now attractively remodeled into offices—was found to be too far from "customers", so the new building was erected in 1892, adjacent to the red light district and handy to saloons.

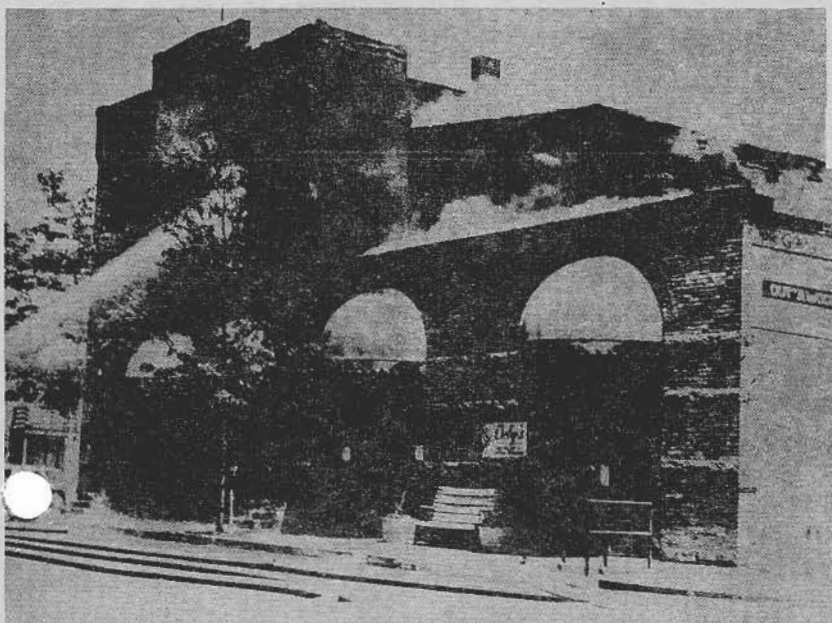
When Colorado City was annexed to Colorado Springs in 1917 the building continued as a fire station for several years, and subsequently housed a stable, museum and mattress factory. A variety of shops occupied it recently, and upstairs was a striking three-bedroom, multi-level apartment.



ABOUT THE PICTURES The historic picture above shows the second city hall in its glory around 1907. D&RG tracks ran on Cucharras along its south side. The door behind the railroad-crossing sign in the picture housed the fire engine, and horses were stabled to the right of that. Below left shows the early stages of the fire, in a sun room added during remodeling, as the first stream of water reaches the flames. Below right shows the building after the fire was out. All evidence of the building has since been removed, leaving a bare lot.

The now-filled-in basement held the city's jail, almost unchanged since its original construction. It had two cells, and rings embedded in the walls for shackling prisoners. It had a dirt floor, except for a concrete slab which supported a stove. The basement had not been modernized, and electric lights were not installed.

(Photo, left, courtesy of Pikes Peak Journal.)



Old Colorado City Historical Society
September 1, 1990

OTHER HISTORY MEETINGS:

Local history organizations become active again with the coming of Fall. Here are some meetings which may be of interest to members, although the word comes too late in some cases:

Ute Pass Historical Society will have a "social" and an autograph party Sept. 19, at 7 pm, at the Cascade museum, to discuss future plans and to meet a number of authors: **Jan Pettit, Mel McFarland, Doris Wolfe, Claude Waterski, Leland Feitz** and perhaps others. Sept. 26 it will have a Christmas Decorating Party at 10 am at Cascade. We've missed a three-day excursion to Glenwood Springs led by **Mel McFarland** over the route of the Colorado Midland, which leaves this afternoon.

The History Society of the Pikes Peak Region will take two busloads to see the Aspen and visit Ricker Pewter works in Estes Park. The all-day trip will start at Van Briggles at 8 am on Sept. 18th. \$29.75 covers bus fare and lunch at the Stanley Hotel. If openings remain, you can make reservations through the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum. The Gehlings will present their research on the Garden of the Gods at the October meeting the 16th, at the Pioneer Museum.

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Old Colorado City Historical Society
September 1, 1990



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

ROLL CALL

from our last meeting:

We appreciate the loyal members who postponed summer activities and turned out despite a lack of a formal program. And we were happy to welcome two visitors. Twenty-seven signed in at the meeting, and 22 remained for lunch.

MEMBERS

Kay Arnold	Flora Belle Hull
Sally Brawner	Joyce Johns
Gene Burroughs	Ruth Walsh Kruse
Rosemae W Campbell	Aldine Lipe
Ralph Conner	Elizabeth S. Mares
Virginia E. Cox	Ruth Maxwell
Lucille Cunningham	Lyn Owen
Martha Curry	Jim Rogers
Lucile Ellis	Virginia Rogers
Bob Gaarder	Liliane Ross
Veda Goosman	A. T. Ruby
Dave Hughes	Claire Ruby
	Frances White

VISITORS

Lou Hansell Rose Slusher

Secretary's Expenses

JUNE 1 TO AUG. 31, 1990

Negs and plate, Apr. NL	7.40
Negs and plate, May NL	7.40
1st cl postage, May NL	33.70
PO box rental for 1 yr.	28.00
Misc. postage: ltrs, IRS, Terr D	14.45
NL paper and reply envs.	69.12
6 negs, Sept. NL	5.82
2 plates, Sept. NL	7.82
TOTAL DUE SEC'Y 8/31	173.71

Another event to keep in mind:
Country Christmas and Folk
Art Festival at White House
Ranch, Sept. 14, 15 and 16, to
benefit ranch restoration.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

11 am, Friday, Sept. 14th
Trinity U. M. Church, 1920 Henderson
Just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center
For luncheon reservations please phone
Lyn Owen, 473-1846
(You may leave a message at any time.)

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

11 am, Friday, Oct. 12th

WEST WORD

Edited by Ralph Conner, 634-0895

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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.