

Fisher Has Hope for Westside's Museum

by George Fisher

I have talked with many people about a museum on the west side and I can say that every one is very excited about the idea; and most people don't like the concept [guiding] the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.

Although I do not know the dimensions of the proposed plan, I can estimate, and I can honestly say that it should be AT LEAST doubled. I can visualize the potence of such an addition to our area. I have visited many museums in my time and I know some of the weak points as well as the strong points.

I know of two different elderly people that have extensive mineral collections that will donate them to the museum, if the space is ample.

Many, many hobby groups in our area, some of which I belong to, are looking for space to hold their meetings. It would be great if these groups could hold their meetings there for free or a low rate, and in return I know that they would be glad and excited about putting in a revolving display that would be an asset to the museum and of interest to the general public. Many of these items, in their display, are very rare and would not be seen in any museum. Some of the most rare and valuable items are in the hands of private collectors. Example: my wife and I had planned on creating a "Fisher Hobby Museum" for a long time, but gave up the idea due to costs. We figured that we would need a building approximately 75 by 50 feet. We could fill the entire building with approximately 25 different collections, without having to buy a single item for the displays. Some of the collec-

February 1, 1991

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

Four Westsiders became members of O.C.C.H.S. this month, and we gladly welcome them:

Dale J. Bryan who lives on Crown Ridge Drive.

Marrillia Garrett, from south 22nd St.

Jim and Shirley Waddill, whose home is on Echo Lane.

Briefly:

Flora Belle Hull missed our January meeting because of a little celebration of her own. She was guest of honor at her eightieth birthday party. We offer our congratulations.

Carl Chilcott is getting his strength back after spending the Christmas season undergoing surgery. He's got to get in shape; we're counting on him for our March program.

We offer our support to Barbara Walters during her father's illness.

Our treasurer, Rosemae Campbell, is again on the move, this time returning to Australia and visiting New Zealand for a two-week visit in each.

President Joyce Johns and Vice President Jan Knox are also traveling, in opposite directions, on family business. Makes you wonder who's minding the store!

tions that would fit in the museum concept are: minerals, dolls, bottles, Valentine cards, Christmas cards, Easter cards, shoes, miniature spoons, coins, clothing, Christmas items, mining items, head vases, powder boxes, Van Briggles and many more.

If the plans for a museum are to be successful then the concept should be on a large scale.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

Williamites: a Westside Religious 'Cult' Is Topic

A religious group which settled in the near Westside is the subject of our February program by Ralph Conner.

Sect founder Henry T. Williams was among the very earliest visitors to Colorado City. He was a newspaperman and tourist-guide publisher, was responsible for naming Queen's canon, was the person for whom Williams Canon was named, and was also the spiritual father of the controversial religious group. His followers ran a produce and nursery business well into the thirties in the vicinity of Bijou and Williams streets, north of Washington school. Mr. Conner will touch on the group's beliefs as well as its history, and will tell of some conflicts the Williamites were involved in.

Soul Is Saved? 'Teen 'Sinner' Confesses, Returns to the Fold

If confession is good for the soul, our guest Jack Livingston no doubt became a happier fellow at our January meeting, after admitting a youthful prank. It is especially ironic, since he was formerly the District Court probation officer!

While telling of his part in the search for Inestine Roberts (p. 3), he remarked that it had been 56 years since he had been in a Methodist church. The last visit, as a teenager, had been in Wisconsin in December. The church's loud-speaker system was automatically "broadcasting" Christmas music each evening at 7 p.m. An exception was Christmas eve of that year, when through some mysterious manipulations the loud speakers spewed forth the Beer Barrel Polka!

Westside Memories: Turning Back the Clock on Local Events

Twenty-five Years Ago

February, 1966

Otis E. Thrasher, 2216 W. Platte, died. He was in the grocery business for 35 years before retirement.

Sixth-grader Barry Bartle of Whit-tier school, son of Mr. and Mrs. Doran W. Bartle of 3021 W. Colorado, played a trumpet solo with the Wasson band.

Planning commission considered a request for annexation of 82.3 acres south and west of Fairview Cemetery.

Fifty Years Ago

February, 1941

Work on Carlton tunnel was halted temporarily when water poured in at 20 to 22 thousand gallons a minute.

Crews blasted a road around the condemned railroad trestle on the Gold Camp road above Silver Cascade falls, west of Bruin Inn.

Midland Terminal bought two mountain locomotives and planned to replace 75-pound rails with 90-pound as far as Cascade.

Mrs. L. C. Ormes, 15 N. 17th, received a Christmas card dated Dec. 20, 1940. No explanation for the delay.

Avg. family lived on \$22 a week.

Clyde Ormsby, 6, 823 W. Kiowa, badly burned when a furnace his father was working on at 1411 W. Colorado exploded from accumulated gas.

Donald Elston, 101 N. 7th, William Robertson, 2301 W. Colo.—both under-age volunteers—began military service.

Joseph E. Laycock, 94, last member of GAR post which once had 800 members, died at his home, 263 Canon Ave.

School Dist. 11 bought apparently its first bus, to move Nob Hill students.

Student newspaper proposed smoking and a juke box in the high school cafeteria, said only 930 of 1,400 students ate there because of a restrictive atmosphere. Board re-affirmed no-smoking policy.

Gazette wrote up Albert Herzog, who had a drug store at Tejon and Colorado for 42 years. He worked at the Glassworks, the Mineral Water plant, and delivered papers to the West side before working in a drug store.

Dr. G. R. Fisher was one of the doctors assisting Dr. E. L. Timmons with the baby clinic at the courthouse.

Law requiring a medical certificate caused January marriage licenses to drop to 13, compared with 23 divorces.



(Before 1917 Colorado City was an independent town.)

Seventy-five Years Ago

February, 1916

J.F. Howerton's deposition (in trial of J. P. Rossiter for violating prohibition) said since first of year liquor sold at \$2 a quart. He paid Rossiter \$1 a pint in a Colorado City poolroom.

Records show 174 liquor shipments to county towns in January. Law didn't require information about quantities.

Rev. E. O. Sharpe, Central Christian Church, praised commissioners for ending Sunday gambling, card games.

D. W. Griffith's "Birth of a Nation" showed at Opera House for 9 days; included a symphony of 25 musicians.

150 came to phonograph concert at Hibbard's on Edison's 69th birthday.

Mrs. Groscup opened a dress-making shop at 4th and Monroe.

National football rules committee decided not to require players to wear numbers; coaches said that would destroy strategy of the game.

McCabe Drug continued operation in Colorado City, but its proprietor opened another store in Red Cliff.

Joe Gress gave the Congregational church 3 loads of kindling. Young men held "sawing-bee"; girls served supper.

Joseph Unser improved enough to return home to 611 Colorado from St. Francis hospital.

Using 35 tons of straw and 4,000 lineal feet of 6-foot chicken wire to hold down dust at Portland Mill Dump was successful enough that method was to be used on Standard dump.

Colorado Springs businessmen organized a Rotary club.

Corrected ad: room and board, \$20 a month; Willard Rooms, 523 Colorado.

Suicide of a Denver man in Hueco Cove cave led Perry Snider to dynamite the entrance closed. A new cave found on Edward Phillips' property above Rainbow Falls near tunnel #4 was to be opened the next summer.

One Hundred Years Ago

February, 1891

Anheuser-Busch delegation discussed establishing a new bottling works.

Forissant had a gold rush for a few days. Find on J. M. Hensley property led to 130 claims but little serious prospecting. More precise assay didn't confirm gold. Midland scheduled an excursion so prospectors could visit for 5 hours and return home the same day.

Besides agitation for "Crystal" county in west, Palmer Lake and Monument—both hoping to be county seat—pushed for a new "Divide" county.

Gazette said theaters and churches would have more patronage if the Spruce streetcar operated to 10:30, instead of closing at 7:00 p. m.

With start of Telegraph, Colorado Springs had four afternoon dailies. Mr. Quiney Hicks was to cover Colorado City and Manitou for Telegraph.

A tramp pulled a pistol on Midland conductor George Briggs at Idlewild and refused to get off. Briggs and a brakeman used pistol and rifle to dislodge him.

Colorado Springs tolled its fire bell 71 times, a half-minute apart, mourning death of Gen'l W. T. Sherman.

Glassworks had 60 carloads ready to ship. Besides Manitou, orders came from San Francisco and Salt Lake City.

Colorado Springs apparently settled two issues: it would build both a Huerfano and Bijou viaduct; post office would be in the Robertson block.

Mrs. Lewis Oliver, widow of man killed on Midland tracks last spring, died; left 3 young, destitute children.

Fourth grader Charlie Spaeth, Red Rock Canon, was third student to die in school year—compared with only 2 in the previous four years. Girls draped his empty chair in mourning.

With addition of drum at Bancroft, marching into and out of classes improved. A fife was to be added as soon as a player could be developed.

Man accused of stealing paint from Ute Pass Paint couldn't prove his innocence, so was fined \$25 and costs.

At City Council meeting, George Murphy allowed \$24 for killing 24 dogs; W.H. Berbat, \$2.50 for "hurry-up" wagon.

New time card caused Midland freights to collide head-on near Leadville. Popular fireman Fred S. Brouse, 22, died. Engineers assumed headlights were trains on adjacent D&RG tracks until too late.

Mountain Climbing Was a Cherished Way of Life to Inestine Roberts

When she was nine months old, Inestine Roberts was tethered to a tree so she wouldn't wander too far away. That precaution by her mother at the family home in Smithport, Pennsylvania, demonstrated at an early age that Mrs. Roberts had a love of exploring. It characterized her whole life and led to the unusual circumstances of her death on Pikes Peak at age 88.

She was a slight woman, whose weight ultimately barely equalled her age, but she was an inveterate mountaineer for years beyond the time when most people settle for more sedentary pursuits.

Member **Bob Gaarder** told her unique story to members and guests at the Jan. 10th meeting of the Old Colorado City Historical Society.

When she was older, she hiked the Allegheny mountains with her father. When she came to Colorado she conquered 35 peaks, including 14,284-ft. Mount Lincoln and—at age 82—the demanding Arapahoe Glacier. To meet all challenges, she also climbed the highest mountain in Florida: 325 feet!

She first climbed Pikes Peak in 1916, and did it often thereafter despite efforts of her family as she grew older to discourage her. On Labor Day, 1952, she made a typical climb—her twelfth up Pikes Peak—spending one night at Barr Camp, the next at the summit and returning that day. In 1955, five days before her 86th birthday, she again made the journey, took the easy way by riding the Manitou Incline and starting her hike at the Mount Manitou summit. She commented that she felt safer on the trail than on the highway.

Aug. 4, 1957, she climbed again, but this time did not return when expected. Search parties, eventually involving hundreds, sought to locate her. It was a formidable job, with hundreds of boulders, some as large as houses, and many cracks and crevices into which she might have fallen.

Searchers tried to find a cabin in the Bottomless Pit area, where she might have taken refuge. The former government experimental station had bunks and a stove, but its location wasn't known exactly and searchers never located it.

Finally, ten days after she began her climb, shots signalled that she had been located. Her body was found in an area of dense growth just below timberline lying beside a log on a game trail. Officials surmised she could have missed a bend of the trail and perhaps stumbled and fallen, since her hat was found 30 yards above the body, and a plastic vial of wildflowers she carried was cracked as if she had fallen on it. Her coat was still draped across one arm, her arms cradled over her head. There was no evidence of foul play or disturbance by animals and injuries to the body were minor.

One of Her Frequent Hikes Up Pikes Peak Proved to be a Dignified Way of Death

She reached the top on Aug. 4th, and planned to sleep there, as in the past. But she was told that she could not spend the night in the summit house and she started down the trail about 5 p.m. She declined two rides, saying she preferred to walk despite a brewing storm. She spent the night under a protective ledge.

About 3 p.m. on the 5th she met Monte Wolford, winner of the Pikes Peak Marathon, who was running the trail. She told Wolford she was all right but would be glad to get to food and shelter at Barr camp. He was the last to see her alive.

Management of the Manitou Incline and the Cog Road offered to move the body to Manitou, but **Jack Livingston**, who took responsibility for the transportation, decided to go down the trail by horseback. The body, wrapped in oilskin, was carried on Livingston's horse to the trail. At our meeting Livingston spoke of how gently the horse maneuvered around trees to reach the trail.

At Ruxton Avenue, the party was met by Coroner William Joss. The area where Mrs. Roberts had lain had been cordoned off and the sheriff's posse kept hikers off the trail, but no investigation was deemed necessary. The coroner reached the conclusions described above.

In 1965 the family commissioned a plaque which was placed near the spot where the body was found. It was, in fact, this plaque which indirectly led Mr. Gaarder to his research. The October, 1990, **WestWord** reported the plaque dedication in the 25-years-ago column of *Westside Memories*. It noted that Mrs. Roberts' daughter, Mrs. M. P. Feldkirchner, lived at 3446 W. Pikes Peak, and Gaarder realized that he knew Mrs. Feldkirchner through his efforts to organize a neighborhood watch. That led him to begin his investigation.

Marjorie Feldkirchner was a guest of O.C.C.H.S. at the meeting. Another daughter, Mrs. **Helen Roberts Griffiths**, lives in California. Also guests were **Dorothy Meyers**, neighbor and friend of Mrs. Feldkirchner, and **Jeanette Maas**, long-time friend of Mrs. Roberts and a fellow-hiker.

Ms. Maas spoke of Mrs. Roberts' natty costume of a fancy cotton dress and full-brimmed hat. She also told of Mrs. Roberts' love of hiking, and the generous way in which she shared her knowledge of the mountains with young people.

Although her death on Pikes Peak was tragic, Mr. Gaarder said he heard from more than one person that Mrs. Roberts probably would have been content with circumstances that led her to die while hiking in her beloved mountains.

District's Oldest School Planning Birthday Party

Whittier school is approaching the 90th birthday of its present building, and according to **Cora Simpich**, a parent coordinator, the school is eager to contact alumni and to borrow memorabilia for a historical display which will be set up temporarily at the school. A re-dedication ceremony will be held this year on May 3rd.

The core of its present building at 2904 W. Kiowa was begun in 1901. It's the oldest school in

Dist. 11, and perhaps the oldest in continuous operation in southern Colorado. It took its name in 1897.

Those who would be willing to lend pictures or items associated with the school, or who might be willing to participate in the re-dedication ceremonies, are asked to contact the principal, **Rosemary Emerick**, at 520-2370.

At a bicentennial rededication in 1976 four people attended who had been present as students at the original cornerstone laying on May 1, 1901.



HONORING INESTINE ROBERTS

Back row, from left: **Loretta and Bob Gaarder**, **Marjorie Feldkirchner** (Mrs. Roberts' daughter), **Jeanette Maas**. Front row, from left: **Dorothy Meyers**, **Jack Livingston**.

—Photo by Virginia Cox

ROLL CALL

from our last meeting:

We again set attendance records at our January 11th meeting. Forty-three members signed in, and we had twenty visitors and guests. Thanks to all for their interest in our program and in our organization. Members who signed in were:

Sally Brawner	Ed Curry
Dale J. Bryan	Martha Curry
Rosemae Campbell	Lucile Ellis
Nancy Cantrell	George Fisher
Bertha Chilcott	Bob Gaarder
Carl Chilcott	Loretta Gaarder
Ralph Conner	Margaret Golden
Arnold Cunningham	Eileen Graham
Jerry Cunningham	Nancy Graner
Lucille Cunningham	(Cont'd in col. 2)

David Harr	Ursula Monroe
Shirley Harr	Margaret L. Nichols
Catherine Henderson	Lyn Owen
Rosemary Hetzler	Liliane Ross
Jerry Iverson	Harriet Seibel
Madeline Keas	Bob Simons
John Keller	Martha Simons
Ruth Walsh Kruse	Rose Slusher
Aldine Lipe	Wilma F. Stephens
Elizabeth S. Mares	Mary Nell Trapp
Ruth F. Maxwell	T. G. Van Camp
Helen Michelson	Jim Waddill

VISITORS AND GUESTS

Gail Allen	Nancy Karlsen
Lydia Kay Anderson	Anne Langford
Rhoda Bennett	Jack Livingston
Ethel Even	Jeanette Maas
Marjorie Feldkirchner	Dorothy E. Meyers
Nancy Harrison	Betty S. McCord
Loralee Hettinger	Edith Nelson
Clarice Hewitt	Mary Dean Nelson
Richard Hilbert	Owen Rothman
Peg Hunter	Hermine Weber

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OLD COLORADO CITY BRANCH
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Monday	12-8
Tuesday	2-6
Wednesday	10-6
Thursday, Friday	2-6
Saturday	10-6

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

11 am, Friday, Feb. 8th
Trinity U. M. Church, 701 North 20th
Just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center

For luncheon reservations please phone

Lyn Owen, 473-1846

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

11 am, Friday, March 8th

WEST WORD

Edited by Ralph Conner, 634-0895
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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, to keep alive the unique culture and spirit of Westside Colorado Springs, and to establish a museum in honor of Colorado City's dramatic history.

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, 701 N. 20th (at 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 should be made by phoning Lyn Owen, 473-1846. You may leave a message at any time. 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 only 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
Vice President Jan Knox		495-3359
Secretary Ralph Conner	633-1394	634-0895
Treasurer Rosemae Campbell		633-8682
Vera Chambon		634-2340
Virginia Cox		635-8705
Bob Gaarder		632-7412
David Hughes		636-2040
Aldine Lipe		475-1658
Ruth Maxwell		599-3111
Leon Young	633-2621	633-1543

Secretary's Expenses

TO FEB. 1, 1991

Postage	\$2.75
Newsletter printing	7.70
Lunches, guests & no-shows	44.00
TOTAL DUE SEC'Y 2/1	54.45

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