

Jan. 1, 1991

## Most Responses Favor Wide-Ranging Museum

Based on a glance at questionnaires received so far, most who responded to our inquiry last month about the scope of our museum favor broad coverage, and want us to include space for displays which might be donated by collectors.

Some of those who recommended a more limited museum made the point that we should start modestly, but make specific plans for expansion later on.

We are hoping to hear from still more members and others interested in a Westside museum. We will compile results in detail and present them for board consideration this month, but we urge those who have not responded to send in their questionnaire. The questions were part of the December **WestWord**, and were based on a suggested layout printed in that newsletter.

There are many factors which will determine the scope of our center, but this inquiry seeks to learn the wishes of our members. We need such information, for example, to know whether an existing building would be suitable, or whether we need to consider new construction. The place to start is with the membership.

## Briefly:

We extend our members' hopes that **Veda Goosman** is recovering rapidly from her eye surgery on Dec. 13th.

Vice president and program chairperson **Jan Knox** says anyone interested in contacting **Kathy Hinkley**, who presented our program on Cattle Brands in November, may reach her at 8175 Dover Circle, Arvada, CO., 80005. Her phone number is (303) 422-9371.

## A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We begin the new year with five new members, and welcome the added support and interest.

**Jan MacKell**

**Doug and Patrice Neely**

**Alice Ulwelling** and her daughter **Alice Ann Colton** are members with wishes for a Merry Christmas from Pueblo member **Woodrow Ralston**. He has known the family for at least 45 years, he says, and they, like himself, are Westside old-timers.

## Ute Pass Will Observe Woodland's Centennial

Unveiling of pictures of Woodland Park, celebrating its hundredth anniversary, will be held at 7:30, Feb. 2nd at the Mountain View United Methodist Church in Woodland Park, for the benefit of the Ute Pass Historical Society. Photos from Historical Society archives will be shown, and will be available for purchase.

Featured will be a concert by the Columbine Singers' gospel quartet. Tickets, for a \$2 donation, are available at Meeker Music in Woodland Park or at 113 E. Bijou, south of Acacia park.

According to the Society's newsletter, the town was established on a ranch owned by Daniel and Henrietta Steffa when the Midland reached there in 1887. First called Manitou Park, it was incorporated as Woodland Park after an election in January, 1891, when 24 voted for incorporation and 14 voted no.

The Ute Pass Society holds its annual meeting and election at the Pikes Peak Museum, Cascade, Jan. 16th at 7, following a covered dish dinner at 6. The Society is considering possible relocation of its museum to Divide.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

## Bob Gaarder Tells Mrs. Roberts' Story

"Inestine Roberts vs. Pikes Peak" is the tale to be told at our meeting Jan. 11, when we meet again at Trinity United Methodist Church at 701 N. 20th. Meeting is at 11, luncheon at 12.

Speaker is member **Bob Gaarder**, who investigated a 25-year-ago item in "Westside Memories," which reported dedication of a plaque honoring Mrs. Roberts. She died while climbing the Peak at age 88. He'll tell us about the life of this sturdy climber. As time allows, Mr. Gaarder will pass on other lore from the history of Pikes Peak.

If you wish to attend the luncheon, please make your reservation with **Lyn Owen** (473-1846) by Jan. 8.

## Pueblo Historians Seek A Permanent Location

The Pueblo Historical Society is considering a move of its museum and library to a larger location at 8th and Greenwood, near the Rosemount Victorian House and the county courthouse.

It has a museum and library in the basement of the Vail hotel, which is rent free but "not easily accessible," in the judgment of president **Eleanor Fry**. The library, with 4,000 books, is especially cramped for space.

The move was to be discussed at its November meeting, although no item about it appeared in the December newsletter and we couldn't reach an officer to learn what direction the discussion took. The Pueblo Historical Society has \$15,000 on hand to apply to growth and development, and for fund-raising efforts.

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

## *Twenty-five Years Ago*

January, 1966

Construction began on Mesa Hill Bible church at Uintah and Cooper. Groundbreaking was held for a shopping center at 30th and King.

Envelope mailed from Continental Oil to Frederick Sperry, with Colorado City postmark of Aug., 1903, was found in an attic of Russ Pogue home.

\$9,000 was taken from a safe in the Red Rock canon home of John S. Bock.

Median age in county was 24.3, compared with 28.8 a year earlier and with a national figure of 28.

Boy, 4, in car while mother locked door at 1808 W. Bijou, released brake and sent car into house at 124 N. 18th.

May D&F planned modern department store in the Antlers Plaza.

## *Fifty Years Ago*

January, 1941

Immanuel Missionary church sought non-combat roles for 35 members.

Templeton Gap CCC camp was set aside for 200 conscientious-objector draftees who would do soil erosion work. CCC transferred to Gardner, CO.

Final census figures: Colorado Springs, 36,789, an 11% gain over 1930. County broke 50,000 for the first time: 54,025, showing 13% growth.

Delegation visited Washington, D.C. to propose an army camp in the region.

In 1940, 3,175 El Paso county individuals filed income tax returns.

Egbert W. Winslow retired as general manager of the Midland Terminal.

United Veterans Council proposed a federal cemetery on the Mesa to be used when Arlington filled up.

Once 3 miles were paved near Leadville, highway 24 would be paved from one Colorado border to the other.

Aircraft Mechanics had 140 men welding aircraft assemblies, working 4 shifts, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

KVOR gave "radio service equal to that of any metropolitan district in the county" now that it carried all programs of the Columbia network.

City painted street names and block numbers on curbs or installed signs where there were no curbs. Block numbers had peeled off street lamps.

14 cars of ice harvested at Divide were shipped via Midland to D&RG. 3 men worked 3 days cutting 14-inch ice.

(Before 1917 Colorado City was an independent town.)

## *Seventy-five Years Ago*

Bars closed as state became dry. Council hastily amended laws to allow police enforcement of prohibition; Colorado City's old law left that up to the state. Helpful district attorney said adding aspirin or white mustard would keep apple cider sweet and unfermented. Magazines came with liquor ads blotted out.

17 elk from Yellowstone were held in corrals on Pikes Peak, to be let out in spring to replenish the local herd.

James Wallace, a U.S. Reduction and Refining company employee before moving to Texas, was one of those killed by Chihuahua, Mexico, bandits.

President Wilson appointed Duncan Lamont postmaster of Colorado City.

Spencer Penrose bought 7.4-acre estate of Mrs. Grace Goodyear Potter for \$70,000, including water rights and 87-room house and furnishings.

Blacksmith for Street Railway, Peter Miller, 63, 1218 Grant, fatally hurt when hit by streetcar near barns.

Harvey E. Bennett, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Bennett of 301 N. Walnut, died in snowslide near Silverton. Body of his wife was not recovered.

Armed guards escorted 7 cars of gold ore worth \$250,000 to Golden Cycle mill: 50 tons from Cresson mine, 25 from Portland, 100 from Vindicator.

Federal Court approved sale of Standard Mill to Golden Cycle. Sale had been held up by the holder of a \$3-million dollar mortgage.

Colorado Springs police ordered Pike theater to remove "objectionable" movie poster from its lobby. Manager covered poster with sign, "Ordered by the police. Decide for yourself." Police confiscated the poster. Manager J. W. McMahon agreed to submit "doubtful" advertising material to commissioner of public safety so charges dismissed.

## *One Hundred Years Ago*

January, 1891

Colorado City's largest employers listed in New Year's Gazette: Midland, 250 in its Colorado City shops, plus 100 on the system; Glassworks, 150, with the number to grow to 200 when pot-house was completed. Quarries employed 200 in season.

Colorado City had a daily and two weekly papers; population was 3,000.

Glassworks produced "greenware," but discussed making "amberware" and windowglass. Company owned homes

and boarding house, operated its own fire department, had wood shop for making shipping containers, blacksmith and machine shops. Turned out 17,500 pieces every 24 hours. Shifts were 7 am to 5 pm, 5 pm to 3 am, with 3-7 am used to renew the furnaces.

Midland crews were shunting cars onto the "highline" to Glassworks. Engine and six cars speeded up to carry them up the grade of the highline, but switch had been thrown which sent cars into siding where they struck stored cars. Collision threw J. V. Keech, about 26, employed only 3 weeks, under the wheels, breaking his arms, legs and jaw, virtually severing one hand, leg and foot. He was carried to his home, moaning, "What will my wife and [two] children do?" He died in 15 minutes. Switch was thrown by another crew but there were no targets in the switch to show it. Midland said it would care for his family.

Proposed "Crystal" county was to be formed from El Paso, Jefferson and Park. It would include potato-growing area around Divide, so some preferred calling it "Spud" or "Murphy" county.

Conductors and motormen of street car company struck for one day. Company changed from a flat \$55 a month for a 12-hour day, and offered to pay 16½¢ an hour. Settlement led to pay of 17½¢ an hour.

Complication from street car strike came from company's agreement to transport Midland employees; some Midland men refused to ride until the strike was settled.

Clara, a resident in Laura Bell's who recently arrived from Denver, attempted suicide by taking morphine. She was distinguished from other inmates because she wore glasses.

Colorado Springs decided on a Bijou overpass across the Monument tracks. No plans yet for a Huerfano viaduct.

"Evening Telegraph" began publication in Colorado Springs.

Marshall Meagher resigned and Pete Eales was chosen to fill the term.

Humane officers were urged to check overloading of wagons at the quarries with 5 to 7 perches of rock instead of a normal 3 to 3½.

J. J. Hagerman said the Santa Fe, new owner of the Midland, wanted only its fair share: "Colorado Springs was absolutely dead until the Midland road was built and property in the three places is worth ten times more than it was before the shops and offices were located here, but the people have never seemed to appreciate the fact."



## What a "Sprag" Is and Other Trivia Treasures

You probably won't ever have a sprag, but if you needed one, it was tough to get along without it. Ore cars had no brakes. A sprag is a stick, about 14 inches long, pointed at each end, which was crammed beside the wheel of an ore car to stop it or slow it down. The dictionary recognizes the word, and adds that it also could be a roof prop in a mine.

This is a piece of historic trivia **Ralph Conner** learned from **Luther McKnight**, benefactor of O.C.C.H.S., during interviews before Luther died in May, 1986. Some items are historical fact; others are "lore" from a different age; a few may even be beliefs of Luther's which are in error. Other bits in Luther's memory from some point in the 87 years that he lived in Colorado City and its successor, Colorado Springs:

Mothers sent their children to hang around where foundations were being laid, in the belief that fumes from cement mixing killed germs.

Because the Golden Cycle mill used a cyanide process of extracting, it couldn't use galvanized pipe. The zinc in such pipe would cause gold to precipitate out.

A man could make two railroad ties in a day; when finished each would be worth \$1.00.

Cripple Creek used 30-cycle electrical current, instead of the standard 60 cycle. This meant that motors ran at half the usual speed, and made it unnecessary for the power to be geared down.

One patient treated at Brady's (mental) Hospital was Bud Fisher, creator of "Mutt and Jeff."

The first trail up Mount Manitou crossed the Incline tracks. The moving Incline cable was a hazard so the trail was moved.

Radio station KFUM said its call letters stood for "Known For Unsurpassed Mountain Scenery."

A steam engine always stood by during "the season," in case

## William Palmer Built Glen Eyrie To Be Not Only Elegant But To Be Enduring

The event was one General Palmer never experienced, but the place was familiar to him. We watched a videotape of his life in the "living room" of Glen Eyrie, courtesy of the Navigators, present owners of Palmer's home. We were in the "Great Hall" where children played, where dances were held, where friends and family gathered.

Later, after a description and tour of the "castle," a record number of O.C.C.H.S. members and visitors enjoyed a fine meal.

When he built Glen Eyrie in the early 1900's, Palmer said he wanted it to look a hundred years old, and to last a thousand. It provided discreetly for comfortable living for a family of wealth. If he'd returned when we were there on Dec. 14th, he might have been puzzled as to who we were but no doubt would have made us feel at home, as did our Navigator guide.

He would have been pleased to see how well it's held up so far, and he might not even recognize that for a while, it fell below the high expectations he had for it.

Between Palmer's time and that of the Navigators', Glen Eyrie had some bad years. His daughters sold it for four million dollars soon after his death, but a few years down the road it went for a tenth of that amount.

Its 1,013 acres had 70 servants in Palmer's time, and even today it requires a staff of 40. That burden and other maintenance was more than most intermediate owners could handle, and it was often neglected despite the relative wealth of its owners. One owner closed up the "castle" a built a more modest house on the grounds.

Fortunately, Palmer had it

an engine conked out on the Pikes Peak Cog Road. If that happened, the spare was sent up the track; it eased behind the disabled engine and a tie was placed between the two (there was no coupling), and the bad engine eased down to a siding. Then the reserve engine returned to rescue the passenger car, which had been kept in place by being tied to the track.

built to endure. Electrical work was in conduit throughout, floors were built in three layers with a strata of felt between so they'd be less likely to squeak and so overhead footsteps wouldn't be disturbing. The plumbing, chrome-plated, is original. When the Navigators took over the estate (for its headquarters, religious training and retreats) the plumbing had been neglected for 15 years, but when water was turned into the pipes only one small leak was discovered. It was as Palmer intended: it wasn't necessary to rip out walls to make plumbing repairs.

He would be disappointed to learn that the central vacuum system doesn't work any more, and his elevator is no longer in place. But electricity and telephones that he pioneered are accepted matter-of-factly today. Fire hoses are functional though still artfully concealed.

We visited several bedrooms and small conference areas among the 67 rooms, saw the de luxe showers which surround the bather with spray, and some of 24 fireplaces.

Virtually all the furnishings had been sold over the years, more recently replaced by valuable historic items unrelated to Palmer or Colorado. One exception is a "humidor", in which were stored the heavy furs which Palmer's guests wrapped around their legs on rides—one of two original furniture pieces.

Gaily decorated for Christmas, Glen Eyrie was a treat for us, and would have seemed like home to General Palmer.

## ROLL CALL

from our last meeting:

Glen Eyrie proved to be a popular program with an unusually large number of guests. Forty-six attended the tour and luncheon. Members who signed in were:

Sally Brawner	Shirley Harr
Rosemae Campbell	J. R. Jeckel
Nancy K. Cantrell	Joyce Johns
Ralph Conner	Madeline Keas
Virginia Cox	Janis Knox
John W. Croff	Ruth Maxwell
Arnold Cunningham	Millie
Jerry Cunningham	Ursula Monroe
Lucille Cunningham	Margaret L. Nichols
Ed Curry	Lyn Owen
Martha Curry	Jim Rogers
Lucile Ellis	Virginia Rogers
Betsy Evans	Harriet Seibel
Bob Gaarder	Bob Simons
Loretta Gaarder	Martha Simons
Margaret Golden	Rose Slusher
Bileen Graham	T. G. Van Camp
David Harr	Barbara Walters

### VISITORS

Dale Bryan, guest of Margaret Nichols  
 Jim and Norma Conner of Pueblo, guest of  
 Ralph Conner  
 Dorothea Croff, guest of John Croff  
 Tomasina Harlow, guest of Ruth Maxwell  
 Roger and Terry Peterson  
 Jan Van Camp, guest of Thomas Van Camp  
 Christ and Kathy Verlo, guests of Jim and  
 Virginia Rogers

## Treasurer's Report

AS OF DEC. 1, 1990

Balance on hand 9/1/90 \$8,074.60

### RECEIPTS

PP Nat'l Bank interest	142.61
Membership dues	50.00
Gift	20.00
Buttons	5.00
For lunches	8.00
Int. from Treasury 2/year nt	2,550.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,850.21</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS

Lunches	8.00
Newsletter printing	74.26
Postage	92.67
P.O. Box Rent	28.00
Supplies	26.90
PP Nat'l Bank svc. Chgs.	2.27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232.10</b>
<b>BALANCE in PP Nat'l Bk</b>	<b>10,618.11</b>
<b>CURRENT INVESTMENT</b>	<b>138,561.65</b>

## Secretary's Expenses

TO JAN. 1, 1991

Postage	4.75
Card	.85
NL printing expenses	7.79
Lunch for 1 no-show	5.50
<b>TOTAL DUE SEC'Y</b>	<b>18.89</b>

## Chaos In Country Paper Shows Pre-War Humor

A clipping saved by Luther McKnight gives insight into life before World War I, when most U. S. citizens lived in rural areas and farm sales and marriages were major components of the weekly, hometown newspaper, and were sometimes more than the country editor could handle.

Luther or a friend adapted the item to some social occasion, no doubt with good reaction from an audience to whom the phrases which follow were familiar.

### MIXED WEDDINGS

An editor in a neighboring city, who had been imbibing too freely in hard cider, recently got a marriage notice and a sale bill mixed up as follows:

William, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Smith, was disposed of at public auction to Lucy Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Anderson on my farm one mile east of this place in the presence of several guests including the following to wit: Two mules, 12 head of cattle. Rev. Johnson tied the knot averaging 1250 pounds on hoof. The beautiful home of the bride was tastefully decorated with Siwash clam spades, a sulky rake, one set of double harness nearly new, and just before the ceremony was pronounced, Mendelssohn's inspiring march was softly given by one cow five years old, one Jersey to be fresh in April carrying a bunch of flowers in her hand and looking charming in her gown made of light spring wagon, 6 boxes of apples, 3 rakes of hay, 1 grind stone, mousseline de soi trimmed with about a hundred bushels of spuds. The groom is well known and has always stood well in society circles of 12 Berkshire hogs while the bride is an accomplished and a talented teacher of Poland Chinas; pedigree furnished if desired. Among the many beautiful presents were two sets of silver knives and forks, 1 spring harrow, 1 wheelbarrow, gocar and other articles too numerous to mention.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

**11 am, Friday, Jan. 11th**  
**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, Feb. 8th**

### 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, Inc., 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, 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
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Vice President Jan Knox		495-3359
Secretary Ralph Conner	633-1394	634-0895
Treasurer Rosemae Campbell		633-8682
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