

November 1, 1991

Foundation Supports Our History Center, Will Likely Fund 10% of Suitable Project

One foundation has offered generous financial support in the Old Colorado City Historical Society's efforts to buy a building for a Westside history center. After we went to press last month we heard from the Gates Foundation, which offered to contribute towards a suitable project.

The Foundation's resolution was predicated on our application for the former Jacob Schmidt Saloon at 2811 W. Colorado, but apparently doesn't limit itself to that one option. The grant will offer an amount equal to no more than 10% of privately raised funds, up to \$45,000. That amount was based on our estimate of \$452,701 as the cost of buying and renovating the Schmidt property.

The Gates Foundation was the only one we applied to which sent a representative to inspect the building and discuss our plans.

The offer expires Nov. 1, 1993. We're expected to send quarterly reports on fund-raising efforts, and ultimately to submit documentation on the total project cost and the amount raised. The offer provides that borrowed or government funds will not count toward meeting the provisions to make us eligible for the grant.

Three other foundations offered encouragement, but no financial support. But each left the way open for us to submit new applications.

Our corporation has about \$150,000 on hand, all of which has come through contributions of friends or members, memberships, memorials, or as income from our investments. The largest contributions came from the late **Luther McKnight** and his family.

Board members expressed their pleasure at the offer, which they embrace as a major challenge. Its timing was reassuring, coming after the earlier disappointments. President **Joyce Johns** has initiated discussion of ways to raise money and make our efforts appealing to other fund sources.

We withdrew our option on the Schmidt building, and must assume that it won't be available when we again seek a suitable property.

Schools Group Formed; Will Organize Programs

When it became apparent that immediate effort won't be needed towards establishing a history center, we considered other projects which will increase our visibility and develop appreciation of Westside history.

We see opportunities among adult groups and in Westside schools, which devote considerable time in certain grades to local and state history.

At our October meeting, president **Joyce Johns** asked for volunteers who would serve on an education committee, to plan exhibits and presentations which could be taken to meetings or classrooms on request. We would use historic items on hand, and develop teaching materials.

Among those at the meeting, **Lucille Cunningham**, **Dorothy McGlasson** and **Harriet Seibel** indicated interest. Others who want to be involved should call Mrs. Johns at 635-4649.

Do we have an artist in our midst who would enjoy designing coloring books for younger children? The **WestWord** Press can handle the printing.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

"Journey" on Mountain Railroads Is Scheduled

We'll see rare pictures and history of the region's most spectacular railroads when **George White** presents "Early Colorado Mountain Railroads" at our November meeting, according to our vice president and program chairman, **Pat Patton**. He'll show slides of pictures he began collecting as a boy, which are scarce items today.

Mr. White "kept busy" after many years as an accountant by putting together historic programs and polishing them in dozens of classroom presentations.

Many familiar lines are part of his offering, including the Cripple Creek Short Line, the Midland, the Florence and Cripple Creek and the D&RG. But he also amassed information about the Moffatt Line, the Denver and South Park, and Colorado Central. Be honest now; how many of you have heard of the Argentine Central railroad?

Postcard makers naturally sought the most spectacular views, such as the Georgetown Loop. Mr. White would send these cards home when the family spent summers in Manitou Springs, and those at home saved them. They became the nucleus of his collections, to which he added other cards and the promotional brochures issued by the railroads.

"Reservation Line" Now Working Fine

Lyn Owen says her telephone answering system is reliable now, and she invites those making or cancelling reservations to leave messages any time. But she urges care in speaking distinctly, and in telling how many reservations are involved. Please give your name!

Westside Memories: Turning Back the Clock on Local Events

Twenty-five Years Ago

November, 1966

Advocates pushed last-ditch efforts to preserve the county courthouse.

Simpson's Garden Center, 416 S. 8th, offered a flower-arranging course.

At a trial, Lee Wyckoff said when two men robbed his liquor store, 502 W. Colorado, one struck him with a bottle, imbedding glass in his scalp. One was found guilty, the other insane.

Westside Lumber, 28th and Colorado, advertised a ball-bearing, natural-finish skate board for \$1.99.

Fifty Years Ago

November, 1941

Denhen Restaurant had Thanksgiving Turkey or Virginia Baked Ham for 65¢; creamed turkey was 40¢. Other meals: 25¢, 35¢ and 40¢. They also advertised six 5¢ hamburgers for 25¢.

Penrose's 11½ million dollar estate paid an added \$50,000 in inheritance tax, making its total tax payment \$157,977.11.

Of 233 local men in the navy, 20% were former West Junior students.

Colorado Springs had no traffic fatalities in its first ten months.

Police said new radio cars kept Halloween vandalism to a minimum, though 22 high school pupils were in serious trouble for throwing paint and eggs at homes of four board and administration members. Five ring-leaders were suspended until January, 15 others were suspended for two weeks. Parents' protests led to letting the 15 back a week early, and allowing ring-leaders to return Dec. 1st.

El Paso county farmers were paid \$123,366 in 1940 to cut production.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hemenway observed a 50th wedding anniversary at 25 N. Spruce, joined by their son Clarence and daughter Mrs. Florence H. Daw, Buffalo, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sloan celebrated their 51st anniversary. Westside daughters attending were Mrs. John D. Day, Mrs. Walter Heath, Mrs. Charles Rogula. Mrs. I. T. Eldridge came from Spokane, Washington.

Richard Sutherland, 2020 W. Bijou, graduated from air corps training. On leave were Raymond Cortez, 1009 W. Colorado; Merle Bender, 2112 W. Pikes Peak; and Richard McCoy, 11 N. 21st.

Motorists turned in license plates for the war as they got new ones.



CLARION TAYLOR
from 1916 campaign card
(McKnight collection, OCCHS)
(Before 1917 Colorado City was an independent town.)

Seventy-five Years Ago

November, 1916

Colorado City appointed C. A. Sheetz, M. L. Phelps and Martin Drake to represent Colorado City in renewed negotiations for annexation to Colorado Springs.

In the state's largest insurance policy, the Golden Cycle insured itself for \$600,000 against interruptions.

A. B. Rickey and Albert Watson opened the Gem theater at Fifth and Colorado, promising at least five reels at each showing.

Street commissioner Brenner removed lower limbs from trees along the streets, allowed wood gathered to be given to the deserving poor.

Clarion Taylor, defeated in his bid for County Superintendent of Schools, considered an offer from the University of Utah, but decided to return to Colorado College faculty in January.

Louis Unser took time from Perry-Dea market, replaced by Roy Huff.

Dentist Dr. Gail H. Van Wye was exonerated of counterfeiting nickels and all charges were dropped.

Colorado City grocery stores adopted a winter policy of closing at 5 instead of 6, though they would remain open until 8 on Saturday.

A Denver company dismantled the Standard Mill. Bondholders received about 30¢ on the dollar.

City tax dropped from 10 to 9½ mills; school tax was reduced from 7½ to 6.2. But roads, an observation hospital near Beth El and an elevator in the courthouse raised county taxes from 3½ to 4 mills.

Colorado College defeated the Univ. of Colorado in football 58 to 0.

One Hundred Years Ago

November, 1891

The Springs' school board named the west-side school "Bristol" after Rev. R. C. Bristol who died a year earlier.

Glassworks built a large furnace to process Cheyenne Mountain cryoline into aluminum and soda ash.

Grave of Helen Hunt Jackson was quietly moved from the site it occupied since 1885 to Evergreen cemetery.

An impromptu party at the home of his sister, Mrs. Clarence Kinsman, celebrated the election of J. P. Jackson as county superintendent of schools.

Case of W. A. Manfield against Bob Ford, dealer who killed Jesse James, was continued when the complaining witness failed to show up.

At Midland's Busk-Ivanhoe tunnel, a drill touched off an unexploded charge of powder killing Bob Wilkinson and fatally injuring Gus Johnson. Four others were seriously injured.

County commissioners considered taking over the subscription road between Florissant and Cripple Creek, debated a road from Hayden's Divide, or restoring the old toll road along the base of Cheyenne Mountain. Mail and stage services had been established to Cripple Creek.

Ease of travel to Cripple Creek was demonstrated by W. S. Sterrett and S. T. Stevens, who made 20 miles in one hour and 55 minutes.

Cripple Creek district population was estimated to be 1,000, and another 45 arrived each day. Claims spread to the base of Mount Pisgah, and it was almost impossible to establish a claim without infringing on somebody else's.

Loyal Temperance Legion of the W.C.T.U. had about 50 young members who met Sunday afternoons at 3:30.

Iris advertisements: "Board \$5 a week at the Elite. No Chinese or negroes at the Elite."

Ute Pass Paint issued an advertising lithograph showing Chief Colorow, deceased war chief of the Utes, standing in front of his wigwam holding a bucket of Ute Pass Paint.

County decided to put the county jail on Vermijo, facing Cascade Ave.

Colorado City prospectors found a rare type of stone suitable for lithography, not found anywhere in the U. S.

Brakeman W. H. Tucker died on the Cog Road when a flatcar of pipe slipped back against an engine and trapped Tucker between them.

Computers Breach National Boundaries, Overcome Time and Distance

Dave Hughes shared personal history at our meeting October 11th to explain how he became involved in computer networks and put Old Colorado City on the map in ways that citizens of the original town would have found incomprehensible.

For that matter, Dave spends a lot of time making sense out of it for people of the modern day.

It grew from spearheading Westsides' Centennial observances, when interest in our unique history was revived but the red tape of government needed to be unraveled to make the history accessible.

Nobody here knew the ropes in working with local and national agencies. Other communities had pioneered their own efforts, and Dave saw the need to contact them to learn how to proceed.

He put computers to work through the modem, which allows one computer to talk to another over a telephone line.

He soon recognized advantages in this form of communication. Computers "talk" faster than human beings—at 120 words a minute. The information remains on the screen and can be stored in the computer as long as it's needed, or can be printed out. And it was no more costly to make contact with New York than it was to call the Citadel.

But all talk and no play is dull stuff, and Dave began sharing Old Colorado City history on his computer bulletin board, eventually spreading the fame of "Rogers' Bar" throughout the world, earning the title of the "Cursor Cowboy," and inspiring visits from computer buffs and publications in Japan and Europe. *Stern* magazine of Hamburg, Germany, was delighted to find that there was a REAL Rogers' Bar and that Colorado City was not a story-teller's invention.

What's more, the stories flowed both ways; others used his bulletin board to share their own tales with others. This was especially significant when political issues were involved, for readers could respond either in support or criticism. He takes pleasure in the advantages of this "conversation" over the one-way presentation of opinions in newspaper or television editorials and tells of instances where computer owners influenced local or national issues through their networks.

In three years his bulletin board recorded 50,000 phone calls, representing 8,600 people and 26,000 messages. Virtually the only expense to Hughes was the cost of a telephone line.

Unlike telephone calls, computer exchanges don't care about time zones. If everybody's asleep in Japan, the messages wait until the Japanese find it convenient to "listen."

Despite its international clientel, the computer

Storage and Spread of Historic Information Open Avenues To New "Consumers"

realm is like a small town. Hughes quoted John Graham's comment that the network is like a New England town hall conducted over a back fence. An example was a Boston lawyer who used his computer to solve problems that arose during construction of a cabin.

Hughes knows first-hand the benefits of computer conversation. His son Ed was in China at the time of the Tianen Square confrontations, armed with a computer and modem. Dave and Ed communicated every day, at a time when there was a black-out of news within China. Ed knew more about events than virtually any of the Chinese. Hughes made similar contact within the Soviet Union during its recent coup and revolution.

Hughes sees unending potential for use of computers by an organization like the Old Colorado City Historical Society.

He gratefully acknowledges the pioneering research of Lorraine Englert, who traced ownership of Colorado City properties from 1859 to 1876. This information is on file cards, but because property-lot numbers have remained the same it could be put into computers and be a convenient outline in which to file historic data.

Once in memory, the material would be available by date, event, or location, at any time. Computers don't mind working through the night to search out an item not immediately accessible.

Hughes is enthusiastic about a whole new "art" form made possible by the computer, and he showed examples of computer-generated graphics.

Insisting that drawings are more dramatic than photos, and allow expansion beyond the historic photos that chance has preserved, he showed a sketch based on the Mathews' drawing made a hundred years ago, with Colorado Avenue and its cabins, and Pikes Peak in the background.

A notable example of computer graphics is the Russell County Computer Bulletin Board, which offers a gallery of Indian art from a Montana town of 300 people. Indians from five reservations near Hobson, Montana, create art which they share in full color on computers. You may send for a copy if a particular creation captures your fancy. Thus, Indian artists have an international audience and a modest income from the sale of prints.

Hughes can't wait until Old Colorado City history is available, in text and pictures, on our own computer bulletin board. Hughes says that three million people in 40 countries own computers, and could tune in to O.C.C.H.S. with a local telephone call.

Briefly:

We reported last month that **Elizabeth Mares** played hookey from our September meeting in order to celebrate her birthday, which fell on the meeting day. How wrong we were! She suffered a heart attack and on the 13th she was spending five days in the hospital. She's recovered nicely, and came to our October meeting.

We're sorry to report that **Ray Ziegler** is quite ill and in the hospital.

Owen Rothman is pretty much out of circulation because of a bad back. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Another convalescent is **Ruth Walsh Kruse** who's pretty well over a bout of surgery.

Another pair of twins (people with the same birthday) are **Martha Curry** and **Ralph Conner**. The Curry family is traveling—to Hawaii was it?

By the time you read this, **John Croff** should be back from a visit to St. Louis.

Sympathies to **Bob Smith** over the death of a special uncle in Kansas.

We'll need a brief board meeting on the 8th to decide about a maturing certificate of deposit.

Symphony Guild To Hold House Tours

Colorado Springs Symphony Guild plans a Holiday Home Tour of four Broadmoor homes, to be held December 6th through the 8th. The homes will be decorated for the holidays by professionals. There'll also be crafts, baked goods and a lunch served by Guild volunteers.

The Colorado Springs Symphony benefits. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 during the tour. For groups of 20 or more, tickets are \$7. A special preview party will be held on the 5th, at \$25. Information or reservations can be obtained at 488-2566.

ROLL CALL

from our last meeting:

Forty-two came to our meeting Oct. 11th, and the church served 32 for lunch. Members who signed in were:

Kay Arnold	Catherine Henderson
Sally Brawner	Dave Hughes
Dale Bryan	Haning Hughes
Nancy Cantrell	Joyce Johns
Bertha Chilcott	Madeline Keas
Carl Chilcott	Elizabeth Mares
Ralph Conner	Dorothy McGlasson
Virginia Cox	Helen Michelson
John Croff	Margaret Nichols
Arnold Cunningham	Lyn Owen
Jerry Cunningham	Pat Patton
Lucille Cunningham	Maloa Read
Ed Curry	Jim Rogers
Martha Curry	Virginia Rogers
Lucile Ellis	Art Ruby
George Fisher	Claire Ruby
Bob Gaarder	Harriet Seibel
Loretta Gaarder	Rose Slusher
Margaret Golden	Bob Speer
Veda Goosman	Pat Walters
Eileen Graham	

Our only visitor was Janet Polley

Treasurer's Report

JOHN CROFF, TREASURER

Postage to OCC Associates	35.01
1/2 cost of joint newsletter mailing	
Deposit to Pikes Peak Nat'l	110.19
9/30 bal, Pikes Peak Nat'l	1,970.45

Secretary's Expenses

RALPH CONNER, SECRETARY

Advance, bookkeeping sup.	1.00
No-shows & chks, Sept meet	30.00
Misc postage, Sept	1.92
Newsletter, negs & plate	8.04
No-show, Oct meet	5.00
Misc postage, Oct	4.29
Newsletter, negs & plate	8.04
TOTAL due for Sep/Oct	58.29

Library Hours

OLD COLORADO CITY BRANCH

2418 W. Pikes Peak 80904, 634-1698	
Monday	12-8
Tuesday	2-6
Wednesday	10-6
Thursday, Friday	2-6
Saturday	10-6

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Nov. 1, 1991

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

11 am, Friday, Nov. 8th

Trinity U. M. Church, 701 North 20th
For luncheon reservations please phone

Lyn Owen, 473-1846

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

11 am, Friday, Dec. 13th

King's Table, 3015 N. Nevada

WEST WORD

Edited by Ralph Conner, 719/634-0895
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Published the first of almost every month by the Old Colorado City Historical Society, a non-profit corporation, 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 history center to honor Colorado City's dramatic and significant past.

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—just 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 \$5 per person. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE LUNCHEON and should be made by phoning Lyn Owen, 473-1846. 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 before each meeting if they wish.

Lifetime memberships are also available for \$100 per person. This amount is placed to a 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	Pat Patton	574-6976
Secretary	Ralph Conner	634-0895
Treasurer	John Croff	632-2896
	Vera Chambon	634-2340
	Virginia Cox	635-8705
	Bob Gaarder	632-7412
	Dave Hughes	636-2040
	Aldine Lipe	475-1658
	Ruth Maxwell	599-3111
	Leon Young	633-2621 633-1543