

Oct. 1, 1991

## Financial Support Weak; Board Aborts Purchase

Story on page 3.

## Theater Organ's In Scheduled Concert

Jim Rogers calls our attention to a unusual and nostalgic organ concert to be given Oct. 13th.

The restored Wurlitzer theater organ at Mt. St. Francis will be played in concert by Tom O'Boyle at 2 pm on Sunday the 13th.

This organ was in the Isis theater in Boulder, and Julie Penrose arranged to have it moved to Penrose Hospital auditorium. When it was to be boarded over about ten years ago, the Pikes Peak Area Theater Organ Society removed it and installed it at Mt. St. Francis.

Tickets for the concert are \$7. Reservations should be made with Dave or Karen Weesner 632-9539.

Jim anticipates the question many will ask by pointing out that this is NOT the Chief Theater organ. That one is in the City Auditorium.

## A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

Our newest members join us through the courtesy of Millie, who sponsored the Westside businessmen.

We welcome Robert Speer, who's a real estate broker, experienced as a commodities broker. He's a Colorado Springs native who owns the Templeton building at 25th and Colorado. He proved his support of Westside as a prime mover in both the St. Patrick's Day parade and Territory Days.

William (Bill) Hazelton, who attended our September meeting, also "got involved" with the parade, ran the first revival of Territory Days, and serves on the Pikes Peak Area Development Board, besides running his own advertising and marketing company. He's experienced in managing ski resorts and restaurants and is married to a third-generation Colorado Springs native, Helen Eyre. He's president of the Garden of the Gods Rotary Club, after recognition as Rotarian of the Year.

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

## We'll Hear of Computer Mysteries and Marvels

Past and future get all mixed up at our October 11th program, when Dave Hughes shows us the communication abilities of computers, with "Old Colorado City Around the World."

We'll have on a large screen what people of many nationalities can pull up on their computers, and we'll see how history and pictures of Old Colorado City go 'round the world.

Dave is at the forefront of the electronic revolution and is frequently called on to explain and demonstrate communication and education potentials of computers.

No knowledge of computers is needed to enjoy his talk. Instead, we'll see familiar history in a new medium and discover how information disseminated in the 1990's.

Besides our own community, including an electronic "Roger's Bar," Dave promises a "live" journey to Tokyo, Japan.

## Build'g Fund Honor Roll

Thanks go to some additional contributors to our Building Fund.

Madeleine Schaeffer's gift honors her sister, Mary Tracy.

Among contributors who are not members, we acknowledge the gift of Mrs. Marilyn Blum.

Douglas R. and Bonnie L. McKay also supported our cause. Dr. McKay gave us a program on the history of sanatoria in the Pikes Peak region. We appreciate his and his wife's interest in our history.

NOTE: Because we're unable to follow through on our original plans for which we invited gifts, we will return contributions to anyone who requests it. Please drop a note to us at post office box 6702, Colorado Springs, 80934.

Those who marked their ballots requesting a refund if the project didn't work out will receive a refund automatically.

Donations not refunded will be added to our endowment fund, to be spent only for a project approved by two-thirds of our membership.

## Convention Delegation Taken on O. C. C. Tour

When Denver hosted the convention of the National Wheel and Rim Association, ladies attending with their husbands came here for a variety of activities, including a visit to Colorado City.

The Arrangers, who organized the visit, set up the option of a tour of Colorado Avenue by Martha Curry, or an in-place history "lesson" by Ralph Conner. Many chose another option—of enthusiastically shopping!

The Arrangers made a generous contribution to O.C.C.H.S. in appreciation of our members' hosting duties.

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

## *Twenty-five Years Ago*

October, 1966

Furr grocery opened in shopping center at 30th and King. City ignored residents' complaints about parking-lot lights shining into their windows.

A Gold Bond Redemption Center opened within Hybernian's Ladies Fashions, 2418 W. Colorado.

Bessie Skinner gave an Arcadian Bell to Trinity Methodist. A tiny generator was amplified a million times to give sounds like a 6½-ton bell.

Central Christian opened its new sanctuary at 2002 W. Pikes Peak. Former sanctuary, once Longfellow school, would be used for classrooms.

## *Fifty Years Ago*

October, 1941

Police, who stopped him for speeding, said James Steffens' car had the most gadgets ever: eight lights in front, almost as many in back, and countless trinkets hanging from the interior. Steffens, 16 Calvert St., was also in trouble because his silver and black car resembled state patrol cars.

Tom Bishop remodeled the church at 23rd and Kiowa for apartments and found cornerstone of the Church of the Good Shepherd. It held newspapers from 1889 and 1907 when an addition was made, a Bible, and a 3-cent coin.

Zoning board considered request from Carrie Shrope for a 25-room convalescent home at 1511-15 W. Bijou.

Museum of Penrose's carriage collection opened at the Broadmoor. Count and Countess de Ways Ruart dedicated a shrine to St. Jude at Stage Road and Penrose Blvd.

Manitou protested PUC ruling that made drivers collect 50¢ fee to carry tourists from the railroad to Manitou hotels. Springs hotels didn't have to pay it. Mayor Skiffington asked for house-to-house mail delivery to cut congestion at the Manitou post office.

Eddie Kelleher and Donald Barrier of West Junior worked out with the Terror football team.

Police radio system made cruiser mileage rise from 19,000 to 27,243 in September. Oil and gas had to be added twice as often as before.

A brother and sister joined Mrs. Emma Baird, 84, 1724 W. Pikes Peak, for a family reunion. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Iles, opened a hotel in Colorado Springs at the invitation of Gen'l Palmer.

(Before 1917 Colorado City was an independent town.)

## *Seventy-five Years Ago*

October, 1916

Midland School, including janitor's quarters, was wired for electricity. Methodists put gas in their parsonage.

Lee Swanson, holder of Bruin Inn concession, wanted autos allowed in North Cheyenne Canon, said people wouldn't patronize the horse-drawn vehicles then permitted.

Colorado City Welfare Asso. discussed improvements to the auto camp ground, a park along the Fountain, emptying buildings of ads, and band concerts. WCTU prizes to children who collected flower seeds brought enough so gardens could be planted next summer in the town's vacant lots.

Spencer Penrose said Broadmoor Hotel wouldn't be built if Woodrow Wilson were elected president; he would postpone decision on plans submitted by four architects until after the election. Work on golf links, lake and water system would continue.

Colorado Springs reinstituted its curfew; those under 15 couldn't be on the streets after 8 without their parents. Utilities' whistle signaled the time—but that caused confusion. Previously, the whistle warned householders to shut their faucets to build water pressure for fire fighters' use. People phoned to ask fire's location.

Between 6 am and 8 pm one day, 571 pedestrians and 34 bicyclists used 5-ft. suspension bridge over Monument Creek at Kiowa. Bridge needed repair.

Col. Spgs. and Interurban Railway set new schedules, despite vigorous protests, and began laying off a third of its employees. Service through Colorado City came every 10 minutes instead of 7½, except between 4:20 and 6:30 pm. Owl car came an hour earlier.

Springs' water department levied a \$2 a year tax on automobile owners.

Higher flour prices boosted bread prices, ended sale of 5¢ loaf.

Springs asked Palmer estate's permission to put auto road from Cache La Poudre to south end of Monument Valley Park for picnickers. Palmer had forbidden use of autos in parks until they were odorless and noiseless.

Collapse of arena for prize fight in Sept. led to 28 lawsuits. \$25,000 insurance would be split among 395 victims.

Former Midland Band clarinetist, dentist Gail H. Van Wye, was arrested for making counterfeit five-cent pieces at his office, where molds were found.

## *One Hundred Years Ago*

October, 1891

Colorado City had four diphtheria cases. Among deaths: high school sophomore Tenna Stewart; Johnnie Oliver, third child of family to die in 2 weeks.

New road from South Cheyenne Canon to Colorado City carried cryolite to the Glass Works. Cryolite had soda ash, used in producing glass.

New industries being discussed for Colorado City: fire clay bricks, smelter, iron foundry/machine works.

Bear killed near Roswell; mother and cub shot between North Cheyenne and Bear Creek canons.

Thayer and Spath families, living on opposite sides of Red Rock canon, conducted a feud that led to rock-throwing, gunplay and lawsuits.

A. M. Kendall and C. R. Godfrey reported some success at placer gold mining in Bear Creek Canon.

Rev. A. A. Swanlund preached in Swedish in Colorado City and Springs.

Iris concerned about City's sanitation, wanted to abolish cesspools. Its solution: "Construct an 18 or 20 inch sewer from...the Stockbridge residence ...to the east lines of the city where it could be turned into the creek."

Midland fireman William Fisher fell from westbound train near Spinney. Eng. J.B. Stephens didn't miss him until steam went down a mile down the line.

Cripple Creek Town Co. gave a lot to anyone who would build on it. A sawmill operated and there were prospects for a gold mill and a newspaper. Midland surveyed for a branch line.

Jacob Schmidt received his naturalization papers to become a citizen.

Manitou cars were held up because a colt on the bridge over the Monument stepped through the ties.

New county jail's location wasn't decided but commissioners selected Pauly Jail Co. of St. Louis to build it.

## *125 Years Ago*

October, 1886

"At Colorado City we paused for a while to rest in the gigantic gates of the Garden of the Gods, and to drink deep draughts from the adjacent fountains..." —Bronte of the New York Tribune on excursion to Fort Garland to meet Genls Sherman and Kit Carson.

Settlers flocked to Pueblo from Puratoire and Trinidad because of Utes. Kit Carson put them under his "paternal care" at Garland.



## Briefly:

As a result of the family membership of **Orville and Lillian Kenelly**, we have a pair of weddings to report—relatively a rare event among our membership! The brides are their two daughters.

July 14, 1990, **Lainie Kenelly** married **Timothy MacDonald**. Tim, from Massachusetts, and Lainie now live in Colorado Springs.

Aug. 10, 1991, **Allison Kenelly** was wedded to **Toby A. Houston** from Littleton. The couple now make their home in San Francisco.

**Kay Arnold** has moved back to 2118 W. Pikes Peak. She'll be at our next meeting, but will drop out soon after it for hip surgery that's been long pending.

**Marilla Garret** made a ten-day trip to Nashville. We'll watch for her on the Nashville Network.

**Scott W. Hogg** is recovering from major heart surgery. We wish him continued progress.

Thanks to **Josephine Alden** for making it possible for **Madeleine Schaeffer** to attend our September meeting.

Bet you didn't know that **Madeleine Schaeffer** and **John Croff** celebrate their birthdays on the same day. They observed the event just a few weeks ago.

We'd have sung happy birthday to **Elizabeth Mares** since she was born on the day we were holding our September meeting (although a few years ago), but she was off celebrating elsewhere!

**Rosalie Ashbaugh**, who attended our September meeting as the guest of **Lyn Owen**, is the secretary for Trinity United Methodist Church and often helps us get set up for our meetings. The church benefits us many ways, like supplying us with a projection screen, beyond just furnishing us space and meals.

**Pat Patton** is making arrangements for us to eat at the King's Table for our annual meal-away-from-"home" in December. Full details, including the program, will be announced later.

## Financial Resources Appear Too Limited; Board Abandons Plans to Buy Schmidt's

We're disappointed that we didn't earn greater support from the foundations where we applied, although they all encouraged our plan to purchase the Jacob Schmidt Saloon at 2811 W. Colorado.

But faced with limited outside financial support, and reluctant to spend the resources which act as an endowment for the Old Colorado City Historical Society, the board voted Sept. 20th to give up our option on the historic building.

We needed a minimum of \$130,000 more to complete the purchase, and an immediate \$10,000 to repair the building's roof. A purchase would obligate us to running expenses such as utilities, maintenance, insurance and security. We sought funds for the new roof and other improvements from members and from four foundations.

The membership responded generously with over \$3,000, and authorized spending up to \$75,000 from our endowment fund. But despite kind words, several of the foundations said they couldn't make significant contributions in support of our project.

We discussed our options at our September meeting. Those present recommended, by a margin of 68%, that the option be dropped rather than committing our savings to the purchase.

Once the board had formally reached the same conclusion, by a vote of 7 to 2, we notified those foundations we hadn't heard from that we weren't able to proceed with our plan, despite the building's character, location and historic significance.

OUR COURSE NOW is to build our endowment and wait for a new opportunity. Schmidt's might be available later, but meanwhile we're willing to give it up.

We paid architect **Michael Collins** \$3,530 for his preliminary plans, which made possible a contractor's estimate of repair costs. In addition, terms of the option call for us to pay \$1,000 of our earnest money for each month we postponed a decision while waiting for foundation replies. Under those terms we will lose \$2,000 and get back \$3,000. We borrowed part of the earnest money briefly, to avoid a penalty for withdrawing from our certificates of deposit, paying interest of \$53.50. Thus total expense for the option was \$5,583.50.

It was a tough decision and we're sure our members share the board's disappointment. We've gained only a little experience.

## Newspapers Report Wrong Cost Figures

Newspaper stories about our search for funds reported smaller needs than we actually faced. We deliberately reserved details of the needed repairs for our grant applications, and reporters made assumptions which mis-stated our costs.

The Pikes Peak Journal had an accurate story with a misleading headline, and the Gazette picked up the story, using the same conclusions as the headline.

As reported, purchase price was \$135,000. But expenses for a basic fix-up of building and grounds would total about \$270,000. Thus the project would have ultimately cost over \$400,000. Many repairs could have been postponed until future fund-raising allowed more rehabilitation.

Brickwork and floors were in good shape, but the building was broken into small apartments and has been neglected, so that considerable repair work was needed, especially to the roof. As a public building there were special needs such as a sprinkler system. To fit our purposes, we would have had to "re-arrange" certain doors and windows.

## Treasurer's Report

John Croff, Treasurer

### Expenditures 5/15-9/1/91

5/15 depst for bldg purch	5,000.00
5/15 Kasten Acctng	140.00
6/5 PPNB, repaying loan	3,000.00
Int on above loan	53.50
PPNB svc chgs, Jn, Jl, Aug	15.71
7/2 Secy's expenses Jun	59.63
7/2 Collins, architect	3,530.00
7/21 Territory Days prizes	15.00

### Income

5/3 Int on Treasury note	2,500.00
5/26 Fr Territory Days	171.60
6/21 World Sav CD int	1,527.65
7/24 Bank Western CD int	320.79
By 9/1 PPNB int	116.50

### Investments as of 9/1/91

US Treasury Note 8.5%	60,000.00
Wrld Sav CD 8.06%	38,170.39
Bnk Wstrn CD 6.398%	34,475.88
Pkes Pk Natl CD 5.75%	8,000.00
Pkes Pk Natl Checking	1,893.63
Total assets as of 9/1	142,540.00

## Secretary's Expenses

Ralph Conner, Secretary  
Expenses 5/1 to 9/1/91

Pstge May newsletter	42.92
Pstge Jun "extra" nwsltr	40.02
Other postage	7.63
Negs & plates, 2 nwsltrs	15.60
May advance for no-shows	10.00
6,000 shts nwsltr paper	98.41
Mailing labels	11.66
Accessioning forms paper	26.84
Total due Sec'y as of 9/1	253.08

## Springs Once Held Nat'l Art Treasury

Some don't know that the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center was once a repository for some of the nation's most valuable art and historical items.

In the Second World War and Korean War, when it was impossible to rule out an attack on the U. S. mainland, art museums in California, New York and Washington sent precious works to the Art Center for safe keeping. They sent paintings by French impressionists, Venetian masters, Picasso, Matisse, Degas, Renoir, and great American artists like Winslow Homer and Thomas Eakins. —>

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Old Colorado City Historical Society  
Oct. 1, 1991

## ROLL CALL

from our last meeting:

Forty-one turned out for the first meeting of the new season. Members who signed in were:

Jo Alden	Rosemary Hetzler
Sally Brawner	Joyce Johns
Dale Bryan	Aldine Lipe
Rosemae Campbell	Ruth F. Maxwell
Bertha Chilcott	Dorothy McGlasson
Carl Chilcott	Helen Michelson
Ralph Conner	Millie
Virginia E. Cox	Doug Neely
John W. Croff	Pat Neely
Arnold Cunningham	Margaret L. Nichols
Jerry Cunningham	Lyn Owen
Lucille D. Cunningham	
Ed Curry	Pat Patton
Martha Curry	Maloa Read
Lucile Ellis	Jim Rogers
Betsy Evans	Virginia Rogers
Veda Goosman	Arthur T. Ruby
David Harr	Claire Ruby
Shirley Harr	Madeleine Schaeffer
Marjorie Harris	Harriet Seibel
Bill Hazelton	Mel Sinton

### VISITORS

Mary Swanson attended as a guest of Rosemary Hetzler.

Rosalie Ashbaugh joined us for lunch as the guest of Lyn Owen.

Bill Hazelton was Millie's guest.

Steven Rosen described the collections, so far as the records go, in the Apr. 14 Denver Post.

Rarely was it on display. It was here because Colorado Springs was far from the coasts and because it was housed in a sturdy, poured-concrete building, resistant to enemy explosives which might reach our shores.

But the Art Center featured some of Robert Lehman's private collection in 1951-52, 24 years before the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art built a separate wing to display his art works.

Rosen points out that Colorado Springs won't get such a bonanza again. Over the years, because of the Air Force Academy, Space Command and Air Defense Command, we've shifted from being a safe haven to becoming a likely target in case of a new conflict!

### THIS MONTH'S MEETING

11 am, Friday, Oct. 11th

Trinity U. M. Church, 701 North 20th

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, Nov. 8th

## 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 \$1 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		635-125
Bob Gaarder		632-12
Dave Hughes		636-2040
Aldine Lipe		475-1658
Ruth Maxwell		599-3111
Leon Young	633-2621	633-1543