

January 1, 92

'Independent' Editorial Marks Ramona's Demise

Side-by-side items in the Colorado City Independent of Jan. 6, 1916, noted two different aspects of an important milestone: Colorado went dry.

Seventy-six years ago prohibition began in this state—soon after Colorado City outlawed liquor and shortly before the nation took the same route.

Commented the Independent in a front-page editorial:

No more will the musician sit before the piano at Ramona and tickle the ivories, while men line up before the bar and keep time with the clink of glasses. No more will Colorado City officials be required to spend most of their time at the corner of Fourth and Colorado Avenue to act as a steering committee to pass the booze-soaked hides on down the line to Colorado Springs. The oasis has vanished from the desert and the thirsty souls must go to green pastures or be satisfied with H₂O.

Crepe was tied on the doors up there last Friday night, and Ramona passed into lost cities of the country.

Now the people up there can settle down to peace and quiet, can boost and boom that location as a beautiful residence site, a place for homes, where scenery and beauty are before the eyes at all times, for this location commands the best view of the mountains to be had in the entire district.

Please turn to page 4, column 1

Briefly:

Some members continue to flirt with the hospitals, although those we're aware of are triumphantly back home and much improved.

Kay Arnold has been back to Westside for several weeks, relearning how to use her leg after surgery to repair damage from a fall several years ago. She expects to attend our January meeting.

We understand Carl Chilcott had brief hospitalization, but is back home.

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

Our thanks, welcome, and best wishes for a great year go to our newest members.

We welcome Dr. John J. Sampson. He and his family attended our November meeting.

★ With Greetings of the Season ★

We acknowledged last month the new membership of Michael and Jeri Knight, a gift from Woody Ralston.

Another Pueblo membership is the gift of Dorothy McGlasson. She sends regards to Eleanor Fry, a past president of the Pueblo Historical Society and a prime mover in that organization.

And John and Rita Cerny join courtesy of Ralph Conner. John teaches history and economics at Mitchell High School, and Rita has a family interest in preserving a slice of Montana history.

We congratulate Virginia Rogers for escaping a heavy siege of hospitalization for pneumonia, including surgery. Jim says she's recovering nicely.

We're also aware of travel by some of our members. Bertha Chilcott visited family in California and Arizona a few weeks ago.

We're sorry to learn that Ruth Maxwell's travel will take her away more or less permanently. She's moving to San Antonio this month, although she's already sent a check for her 1992-3 membership so she obviously plans to keep in touch.

We acknowledge with thanks the kind words of Bob Gaarder in regard to WestWord at our December meeting. To keep up our standard we encourage all members to follow the example of a few and let us hear from you. Our columns are especially open to out-of-town members.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

Museums' Tie With Education Is Topic

Don't be scared by the topic; we'll hear a challenging and interesting talk when our member Beverly Diehl speaks at our next meeting (at Trinity United Methodist Church, 11 am, Jan. 10) on "Education in Museums."

Bev has been working on programs at the Colorado Springs Pioneers' Museum, and has extended experience as a teacher and organizer. She developed materials for the city's observance of Gen'l W. J. Palmer's anniversary a few years ago.

Her study of local history includes Westside topics, but her ideas Jan. 10th will support a renewed program of the Old Colorado City Historical Society.

President Joyce Johns is developing a committee to better organize our work among schools and the adult community.

Gambling Fallout: Fund Supporting Preservation

The Colorado Historical Society is making plans to disburse funds which will materialize as a result of gambling in three Colorado mountain towns.

Of state revenues from gambling, 28% will go towards "historic preservation and restoration of historical sites." The amount will fall between several hundred thousand and a million dollars, according to estimates.

Shortly before Christmas, O.C. C.H.S. submitted five possible historical preservation efforts, including the purchase and revitalization of the Jacob Schmidt building. Using proposals submitted, the History Society will set priorities and criteria to allow fund disbursement this summer.

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

Twenty-five Years Ago

January, 1967

Planning Commission approved a development east of 21st, to include a golf course, club houses, lake, swimming pool, shopping center, and 401 townhouses and 185 garden apartments.

G-T wrote about "Century Chest," established in 1901 by Louis Ehrich, to be opened in 2001. Housed at Colorado College, it held letters, including one by W. J. Palmer, a cylinder record of college yells, and pictures of local home interiors—including a bathroom.

Fifty Years Ago

January, 1942

Jan. 6: a 10,000-person army camp announced for Colorado Springs. A barracks was built as an engineers' office.

Sugar and tire rationing and scrap metal drives began; auto-making ended; radio couldn't broadcast weather or musical requests. Time magazine called Springs "least bombable" U.S. city.

Midland Terminal replaced 24,000 ties, laid heavier rails in Ute Pass, and added 2 locomotives. It employed 140.

Guests at Carol Brooks' slumber party, 3002 W. Kiowa: Betty Jo Green, Imogene Kennedy, Emilee Hiller, Betty Waters, Dixie Hadley, Virginia Gilles.

Local Christmas baby was a son of the Harry Johnsons, 3700 W. Colo.

Oren Boling, 1609 W. Kiowa, and George A. Follmer, 1629 W. Cucharras, became patrolmen on the police force.

C. Burkhardt sold Buffalo Lodge, bought Manitou's Rio Grande depot. Once, 3 trains a day used the station, along with excursionists' sleeping cars.

R. A. Smith bought West Side Electric 2732 W. Colorado, and planned to move his tie-making plant there from 2605 W. Colorado.

William B. Stanley, 2030 W. Pikes Peak, joined the Westside post office. Rev. J. D. Taylor became pastor at the Church of Christ, 1402 W. Pikes Peak.

Richard DeWitt had West Jr.'s best free-throw record: sunk 70 out of 100.

Fire losses in Springs in 1941 were \$3,008—lowest since 1918. Town had one '41 traffic fatality, but in 1942's early hours a Midland employee, 70, was killed at Colorado and 22nd.

Marine Corporal W. J. McAnally, 1722 W. Pikes Peak, was captured by the Japanese on Wake. Frank J. Moser, 3018 W. Kiowa, and Lloyd Stevens, 117 N. 7th, were safe in the Pacific.



Hundley Stage meets Midland, 1890's.
(Photo, Mel McFarland collection.)

(Before 1917 Colorado City was an independent town.)

Seventy-five Years Ago

January, 1917

J. H. Vallery, Midland's receiver, said it would be reorganized by holders of \$10-million worth of bonds.

Oklahoma syndicate said Glen Eyrie castle would remain, but grounds would be broken into villas—like a development in 1886 which Palmer bought out.

Broadmoor plans included a nine-story building with wings at angles at its ends, surrounded by 26-apartment annexes and residences; planned 100-garage, 40x100 ballroom with gallery. West side of building would be glass.

Installation of the new elevator at the county courthouse began.

Colorado City's Republican club officers: J.P. Jackson, Otis Thrasher, J.C. McCreary, W.H. Ogle, R.R. Riley, W.F. Gohweikharte, L. Feldman.

Census bureau estimated Springs' population at 32,971. If Colorado City, Ivywild, Nob Hill and Roswell were included, it would be about 50,000.

P.U.C.: though Midland trains came to Green Mountain Falls at bad times, no additional service was needed.

Talk of starting professional football, despite failure 17 years earlier when college stars got \$500-\$1,500 a season, expenses and hospitalization.

Anthony Bott estate was \$40-50,000. St. Mary's was given \$500; local Pioneers' Asso., \$100; Colorado Pioneer Asso., \$500. Nephew Paul J. Bott given diamonds and a watch. Bulk went to Harriet E. M. Bott (Daniels), a niece who cared for him several years.

Wallace Wister, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry H. Wister, 302 Grand Ave., died when a shotgun he was cleaning discharged. Brother, John, survived a shot in the foot a week earlier.

Rev. A. W. Luce succeeded Rev. E. O. Sharpe as pastor of First Christian.

Both city councils passed ordinances to allow a vote on annexation of Colorado City to Colorado Springs.

One Hundred Years Ago

January, 1892

Colorado City's population of 1,788 would be 2,700 if outlying areas like Kenmuir and Glassworks were counted.

Town had five churches, 3 schools, 4 lodges. Principle industries were the Colorado Midland, Glassworks, stone quarries and Ute Pass Paint. Gazette described Colorado Avenue as "the best unpaved street in Colorado."

Colorado City had more children in proportion to taxable property than Colorado Springs or Manitou. Of 637 of school age, 440 were in school.

Road between Colorado Springs and Hayden's Divide was so bad the gold camp was accessible only over the Midland to Florissant, then by stage.

A committee said the road to Cripple Creek should be around Cheyenne mountain instead of via Bear Creek. Commissioners decided against a road via South Cheyenne Canon—it might destroy Seven Falls. Bear Creek owners planned to extend their toll road, and wanted to connect the D&RG to their highway by stagecoach.

Gazette commented, "The telephone line [to Cripple Creek] is almost as essential as a good road." Springs' police committee recommended the city pay half the cost of a telephone at Ross Bros. Grocery on the westside, for fire and police purposes.

Former Colorado City patrolman Peter Eales became the Cripple Creek deputy sheriff. G. W. McCullough filled the police position.

Post office changed name of gold fields' chief town from Fremont to Moreland. Town had 40 frame houses (6 were hotels), 69 log, and 55 tents.

A jeweler said that because of the Cripple Creek gold excitement he was selling magnifying glasses by the gross.

Gazette said the "cent" wasn't catching on; those who took cents as change left them at home. It cited an Antler's clerk, who gave two 2¢ stamps for a nickel. When customer demanded change, clerk gave him another stamp.

Colorado City's council approved plans for a new city hall.

The sheriff closed down Jacobs and Moats' grocery, and N. B. Hames put a liquor and cigar store in the space.

West room of the Templeton block was fitted up as a skating rink. Colorado College put electricity in Palmer hall, including the chapel, library and gym. "The next thing talked of is a stove for heating the building."

Texan Livens Roaring Twenties at the Rate of Four Miles Per Peanut

A few months before the nation plunged into a major depression, national attention focused on Pikes Peak as a bizarre project unfolded in the waning days of the roaring twenties, according to member Bob Gaarder's talk Dec. 13th at the King's Table.

Screwball Project Wears Down Gloves and Goobers, Earns Peak National Attention

Responsible was a man from the Rio Grande valley, **Bill Williams**, who pushed a peanut to the summit of Pikes Peak for three weeks to meet a personal challenge and to earn more than \$5,000, paid by a publicity-hungry peanut processor.

Williams made a bet that Al Smith would carry Texas in the 1928 presidential election. When he lost, he pushed a peanut along the highway from his home in Rio Hondo eleven miles to Harlingen, Texas. Flushed with success, he declared, "I could roll it up Pikes Peak!" When people laughed, he sought to prove his boast, and came to Colorado Springs to conquer the Peak with a peanut.

He began at Adams Crossing May 20, 1929, and completed 26 miles to the summit on June 11th. Each day he would push a succession of nuts a mile or two, take a car to Colorado Springs for the night, then drive up to resume where he left off.

As a "professional", Williams was well-equipped with gloves, and knee pads made from old tires. As he ran into bad weather he added winter underwear and a pilot's helmet with flaps and chin strap. A harness rested on his head and nose and held a metal extension in front of his face. At the end of this rod rode the peanut, on an axle so it rolled as he pushed along on hands and knees. News reports insisted the nuts rolled every inch of the way.

He faced obstacles from rain, sleet and snow, and from skinned or bruised knees, to reach the summit within the time he set.

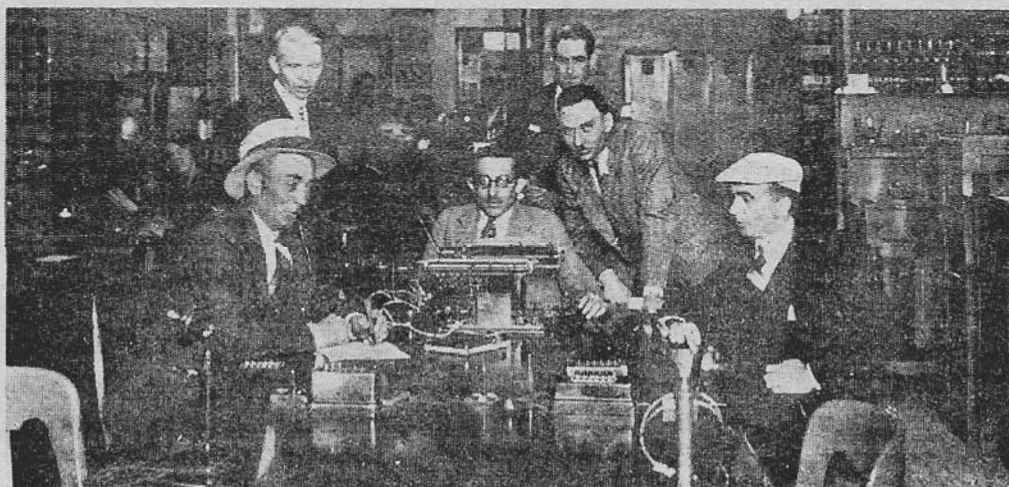
One hazard that "worried" newspapers failed to materialize: he had no nuts stolen by squirrels, elephants or baseball fans.

Each peanut lasted an average of four miles before it wore down and split open. By the time he finished he had used 184 peanuts, shredded 12 pairs of cotton gloves, and scraped the toes off three pairs of shoes. He wore out 170 pairs of pants, each of which he wrapped with a red ribbon and sold as a souvenir for a dollar.

Although only two people were on hand when he completed his effort, he had been the object of intense interest from tourists, photographers and newsreel men every step of the way. When a little girl asked him why he was doing it he replied, "Why is a dog?"

Noone was more enthusiastic about the enterprise than the Tom Huston peanut company of Columbus, GA, which encouraged nation-wide publicity. They happily responded to newspaper requests for pictures, and assured the curious that no "admission" would be charged for spectators.

Williams' "manager" and the peanut company's representative was **Harry Galbraith**, a Colorado Springs free-lance journalist who orchestrated the enterprise and supplied daily telegrams. Galbraith's papers, including his souvenirs of the project, were given to local historian **Carl Matthews** and were passed on to the Old Colorado City Historical Society's archives by Matthews' sister, **Lucile Ellis**.



Western Union was a beneficiary of Bill Williams' efforts. Its telegrams helped arrange the peanut company's sponsorship of Williams, and it sent 2,000 telegrams about the stunt. The picture from "Telegraph World," August, 1929, shows the Springs' Western Union office. Left to right are-organizer Harry Galbraith, chief telegraph operator C. C. Anderson, night manager P. C. Larue (standing), night operator Paul Greenblatt (sitting), Western Union manager O. L. Michaels, and peanut-pusher Bill Williams. (Galbraith papers, Old Colorado City Historical Society, courtesy of Lucile Ellis.)

Note - Picture
is reversed.

Colorado City can fix up the beautiful little [Thorndale] park again and our people can go up there with the knowledge that they will not be disturbed.

Ramona should be a part of the city and it likely will be in time, for the people of this town are going to take an interest in the welfare of her people that they never took before. They are going to paint their houses,

beautify the lawns, the parkings and the streets with flowers, to make a garden spot here that people will delight to see and Ramona will fall into line and do the same.

Perhaps you do not know it but there are a lot of new faces in this town, people who are coming here because this city is and has been clean, and because it will be a good place to raise a family and to build a home.

SOME REAL TRAGEDIES

Under the above headline appeared this item about a formerly prominent saloon owner who had not joined the group which established Ramona when Colorado City went dry:

Real tragedies are being enacted in Colorado City every day and the people pass them by without a thought.

Last Saturday morning a man came down Fourth street, an old man past the middle days of his life. He is slipping down to the other slope that leads to the land from whence we never return. He carried a broom over one shoulder, a grip in one hand, and another grip was slung across the broom handle. A man who in the years that are gone could have written his check for most any amount he would have cared to and it would have been honored when presented at the bank. Yet when he rounded into Colorado Avenue that morning he is said to have made the remark that those grips represented the savings of a lifetime.

This man is honest to a fault. Kind, generous, ever ready to help and in the face of such awful losses has retained a disposition to be envied in many ways. He is going to leave Colorado City, to make a home in some other place [Denver], a thing which at his age will be hard for him to do. But he will do it and the Independent wishes Byron Hames good luck and prosperity where ever he may go.

ROLL CALL

from our last meeting:

December was our meeting "out," when we had lunch at the King's Table. Thirty most loyal members attended, and we had no visitors.

(The editor apologizes for any confusion at the cashier's. We reported costs, including special prices for senior citizens, as of November. King's Table made changes Dec. 1st which made our information obsolete.)

Members who signed in were:

Ed Bathke	Veda Goosman
Sally Brawner	Marjorie Harris
Dale Bryan	Catherine Henderson
Jean Christopher	Joyce Johns
Ralph Conner	Helen Michelson
Virginia Cox	Margaret Nichols
John Croff	Lyn Owen
Arnold Cunningham	Pat Patton
Jerry Cunningham	Maloa Read
Martha Curry	Jim Rogers
Lucile Ellis	Liliane Ross
George Fisher	Harriet Seibel
Bob Gaarder	Martha Simons
Loretta Gaarder	Robert E. Simons
Jim Goosman	Rose Slusher

○ TREASURER'S REPORT

John Croff, Treasurer

As of Dec. 1, 1991

"Earnest deposit" refund 2,000.00
(bal due us fr bldg purchase)

Int fr Treasury Note 2,500.00

Chk for sec'y's expenses 58.29

BALANCE, PP Nat'l 11/29/91 5,988.45

○ SECRETARY'S EXPENSES

Ralph Conner, Secretary

Xmas cards for gift memberships 2.24

Misc. postage 1.74

Newsletter: negatives and plates 8.04

TOTAL due Sec'y as of 1/1/92 12.02

Historic Trivia

According to the late Luther McKnight, there was never a bank robbery in Old Colorado City. Other historic observations of his:

Telephone company trained rats to carry the first cable through pipes.

Silent movies had cues on the edge of the film which caused a light to flash in the orchestra pit, a signal to the pianist or conductor that a mood change was coming in the film story.

Transfer companies protected morals of their deliverymen by requiring two men to make deliveries to Laura Belle's or other "houses."

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

11 am, Friday Jan. 10th
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, Feb. 14th

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