

October 1, 1992

Historic Items Are Given To Museum

**Early Edition of *Ramona*, Useful
City Maps and Newspapers
Are New Acquisitions**

We gratefully acknowledge several contributions of historic material made to O.C.C.H.S. in the last few weeks. Despite our limited space for storage, these items can conveniently be kept until we have a building for our history center and research library. Each item makes an important contribution to our growing archives. We thank the donors for their thoughtfulness.

Bob Patoni of the Colorado Springs Community Development Office passed on several large-scale maps which have outlived their usefulness to the Planning Department. At least two of these make an interesting display as they stand, including the original of the map in "The Westside, An Introduction to its History and Architecture," which outlines Westside real estate developments and identifies each by the month and year it was established, thus outlining the expansion of Colorado City. Another map identifies street names in Old Colorado City. Many streets have had three different names through the town's history: East Third became First, and after annexation, 21st.

Elizabeth Geiss presented an early edition of "Ramona"—appropriately enough, at the time of our program on that subject. The title page is missing, so it's impossible to know if it is a first edition, but it is obviously an early one. It belonged to Mrs. Geiss's mother.

Helen Michelson gave us local newspapers describing the 1935 flood and other events. Photographs from old newspapers reproduce better than those copied from microfilms.

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We're joined by two families with special ties to Westside.

Bob and Derry Gleason took out a family membership. Mrs. Gleason is an Old Colorado City history buff, working on a history of the area. She's currently active in the Midland School birthday celebration (see page 4). Her family once lived in the 2300 block of West Colorado.

Audrey Topliff is a member as a gift from Virginia Cox. Mrs. Topliff lives in Miami, OK, where she does genealogical research. She formerly lived near 32nd and was active in the Manitou and Skyway Baptist Churches. Her husband, the late Roy, was a mechanic at Marksheffel Motors.

Nothing New About Building's Purchase

At our Sept. 11th meeting we heard a report from Mark Cunningham of West One Group regarding our proposed purchase of Immanuel Missionary Church at 1 S. 24th, across from Bancroft.

Our offer to purchase has been declined for the time being.

He told of a discussion with church officials on Aug. 25th, including representatives of District headquarters which has actual ownership of the building. The sale no longer hinges on the congregation's purchase of a particular church, although they will need a building which can be used for services. The church asked for a delay while they arrange an appraisal and environmental audit and search for a new location as a prelude to further discussions.

Derald D. Hunt, pastor of the church, wrote president Joyce Johns asking for more time and promising to resume negotiations in the near future.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Bev Diehl Will Present Pioneer Surveyor Story

A man who played a prominent part in establishing Colorado City, A. Z. Sheldon, will be the topic at our Oct. 9th meeting, as presented by Beverly Diehl, who last spoke to us Jan. 10th.

Sheldon was born in Massachusetts and came here in 1860.

He was educated as a civil engineer and surveyor, and was the first county surveyor. He also did surveying work in Pueblo and Arapahoe counties. He was the founder of Palmer Lake.

He married Calanthe Everhart, and was one of three men who organized the Colorado Territorial Militia. He served two terms in the territorial legislature.

His was the first house you'd see in Colorado City, living at 1 Colorado Avenue. He died in 1915 in San Diego.

***Our meetings will be held in
greater luxury—we'll move to
the parlor upstairs.***

Trinity United Methodist Church is growing and needs to leave the basement room set up for Sunday school classes.

We're invited to meet in the parlor on the floor above our previous meeting room. We'll eat in the same room by the kitchen, a floor below.

There is an inside stairway between meeting and lunch rooms. You can avoid all but three stairs by using the ramp on the outside of the building. The church plans an elevator, but we trust members can attend without serious inconvenience in the meantime.

The parlor is carpeted and will be a comfortable meeting place.

Westside Memories: Turning Back the Clock on Local Events

Twenty-five Years Ago

October, 1967

Masons observed El Paso lodge #13's 100th birthday—it began Nov. 8, 1867, at El Paso Hotel, 28th and Colorado—and heard plans for new headquarters at Fontmore and Panorama.

Median age in El Paso county moved further downward to 24.3, from 25.8 in 1960. National figure: 27.7.

Council voted to annex Knob Hill, which would add 5,100 people, 460 acres, and controversy over zoning.

Dr. Kenneth Lovell gave the school board a petition for a Westside high school, calling "economic and physical hardships...excessive and discriminatory." Board said the future would likely include a Westside high school.

Christ for the Nations Crusaders got planning commission's rezoning approval to build an 8-unit apartment at 32nd and Kiowa for church workers. Rev. R. G. Dunbar promised parking and drainage would be provided.

Fifty Years Ago

October, 1942

In the 90's, a steam cog engine left the rails near Crystal creek, a mile above Manitou Springs. Cars stayed on track and there were no injuries, but the engine was covered to avoid scaring passengers. For the war effort, soldiers cut it up to get scrap metal.

Other scrap metal for the war was collected at curbside during a campaign. Mrs. I. M. Redinger, 1611 W. Pikes Peak, gave two massive copper keys, 6 inches long, brought by her family from England. Springs' First National contributed 8,340 lbs. of safe deposit boxes from El Paso National Bank with which it consolidated in 1920. Other donations: railroad equipment in the Midland yards; safe from Wheeler's old bank in Manitou; cannons from Legion hut at Platte and Cascade and from the courthouse block; 30 tons by West Junior's Gold and Purple platoons.

There was talk of salvaging the Palmer statue, the D&RG steam engine behind the Antlers, or the Cog Road trophy engine in Manitou Springs.

Food prices and rents were frozen; gas rationing planned; speed of 35 mph decreed on the highway; liquor sales ended after 8 pm on Sunday, midnight on Saturday, 10:30 other nights.

Whittier and Buena Vista led all schools and Midland was third in September sales of war stamps. Mid-



Oct., 1917. Sam McCracken's grocery puts a Ford delivery truck in service. (Photo by Luther McKnight).

land averaged 94¢ a pupil, the other two schools, \$1.00.

There was dismay at a war production board decision to halt gold mining in order to free miners for other mines. Cripple Creek and Victor spokesmen told Washington the order would strangle the gold camp, kill the Midland and throw hundreds out of work. Still, production stopped at 4 p.m. on October 15th.

Clarence R. "Click" Robinson, 1431 W. Cucharras, who served in World War One (and was in Russia at the armistice), left wife, daughter and son to enlist in the Marine Corps.

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Pelling, 314 N. 20th, had been married 50 years.

Owners sought to develop the south side of Colorado and north side of Cucharras in the 2600 block.

Mrs. Harriet Chase, 212 N. Pine, celebrated her 94th birthday. She taught piano for 68 years, was once the oldest piano teacher in the U. S.

Seventy-five Years Ago

October, 1917

Switch was installed at 26th so street cars on Colorado could reverse direction at 26th. Alternate cars went all the way to Manitou (each 15 mins.).

New street signs for the West Side arrived and were installed.

William Fields, 1621 N. Cooper, was drafted and refused to claim an exemption. His wife went to Nebraska, so a garden Fields had started was left untended. Boy Scouts and Rotarians took over the garden and sent \$23.70 to Mrs. Fields when the crop matured.

To bring West side's fire protection to par, Colorado Springs planned to replace fire plugs, lay new mains, rebuild alarm system, and replace "obsolete" and "entirely unreliable" motor truck.

Police gave up summer olive drab uniforms and began wearing dark blues.

Melancthon Beach, 83, died at his home, 406 Cheyenne Rd. He named

Colorado City, drove first stake, built first house, and once owned Manitou's springs, selling them for only \$300.

City trapped a beaver which played havoc with Thorndale Park's few trees.

Graders working between the viaduct and 31st put Colorado Ave. in good shape for Sunday drivers.

Spencer Penrose threatened to stop construction of the Broadmoor because carpenters talked about a strike. He said he didn't want "carpenters or anybody else [to] run my business."

Ila Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Brown, 2318 W. Bijou, married Clarence H. Griffin.

One Hundred Years Ago

October, 1892

Tramps may have started a fire in the former Stewart Plaster and Cement factory, idle for 3 months but one of the oldest manufacturing plants in the county. Company which bought out former owners had other plaster mills and didn't plan to restore the plant.

Two months without rain left Monument Creek dry, exposed sewage and created an "intolerable smell".

Haskel and Talcott searched for a spot to locate a foundry and wire works. Bott furnished land and \$1,000.

J.B.Wheeler Banking Co. was incorporated by Wheeler, J.B. Glasser, I. H. Jewett, A.Z.Sheldon and Anthony Bott.

J. H. Holt died in the Midland yards as he chained draw bars of passenger cars together. An engine jolted the cars, caught Holt off guard.

Glassworks manager Collins encouraged families to keep children in school, despite the temptation from \$16 to \$20 a month in wages for boys' work. In case of a mother with two sons, who needed the income, he let one boy work four months while the other attended Midland. Then the two exchanged positions for the next four months, so each got an education.

Mrs. M. A. Pennell successfully bid to feed prisoners for 16¢ a meal.

Davie Walsh's 40-ft. sign over the Oxford sample room and cafe was the largest in the city.

A Colo. City schoolgirl was disappointed in her grade on this assignment: Write 5 sentences with predicate modified by 2 adverbs. Her paper: "1. The dog swims quickly, neatly and plainly. 2. The man works quickly, neatly and plainly. 3. The horse works quickly and plainly. 4. The boys eats slowly, neatly and plainly. 5. The girl dresses quickly, neatly and plainly."

'H. H.' Had a Troubled Life, But Eventually Found Peace in Colorado

Orphaned in her youth, headstrong, her efforts at happiness thwarted by death, the life of **Helen Hunt Jackson** was marked by despair. But she was able to triumph over adversities and to find success and happiness.

Wrote Poems, Travelogues and Factual Pieces, but Greatest Impact Came In Fiction

matters or sociability, so she often isolated herself to write—on large sheets of paper, in pencil. When composing novels, she wrote two or three thousand words a day.

We learned this when she appeared at our Sept. 11th meeting, in the personage of **Gloria J. Hel-muth**, who, like Mrs. Jackson, came to Colorado from the East and explored its culture. **Jan Knox** underwrote her appearance, so Helen Hunt Jackson could "come home" to an appreciative audience.

Born Oct. 15, 1830, she endured a strict, New England upbringing. Her father was a Congrega-tional Minister at Amherst, Mass. Helen was a chubby "neat-freak", who questioned authority and was sometimes an unruly child. One time she ran away and spent the night in a neighbor's barn. She savored the adventure and showed little remorse.

When Helen was 12 her mother died, and her father died three years later. She and her 3-years-younger sister Anne became wards of grandparents.

At age 20 Helen met army lieutenant Edward Hunt, and at 21 she married him. They had two boys, but the first, Murray, died at 11 months from a brain tumor, and after less than a dozen years of marriage her husband died. Two years later, Helen and her second son, Dennie, contracted diphtheria. She recovered, the boy did not.

In the midst of the deep depression which followed, she began writing poetry and was encouraged to submit it for publication. Her career was launched with eventually included more than two hundred poems, plus many essays, children's stories, travelogues and novels.

She went to Europe, then spent several months in California recuperating from malaria caught in Rome. Her doctor persuaded her to visit Colorado, agreeing to go with her if she'd try a month.

She embraced the state, reveling in clear air and blue skies where allergies no longer interfered with breathing. She took the usual tourist trips, visiting Central City and Georgetown, and climbed mountains around South Park. Often she was accompanied by fellow-boarder **William Jackson**.

Her write-ups of these trips were popular in the East, and helped promote the region. Often she sold the same material to different magazines.

When she visited the east in 1875, she and William Jackson were married at her sister's home in New Hampshire. He was five years younger than Helen, the president of the D&RG railroad, a oanker, and active in civic affairs.

They settled at 228 East Kiowa in the midst of an acre of lawn and garden. Her husband frequently traveled, and she had no interest in domestic

The only room in the house with a view of the mountains was the kitchen, so she moved the kitchen and converted that room into her study. Almost every week she climbed to a point high above Seven Falls to seek inspiration.

Sometimes she went with her husband on trips, including an 1879 trip to Maine where they joined a birthday party for Oliver Wendell Holmes and Helen read a poem written for the occasion.

On one of these trips, she heard a lecture on Indians' problems. She studied the issue and made the mistreatment of Indians her own crusade. She wrote the book which she considered her best—the one by which she would most like to be remembered—"A Century of Dishonor" (1881). A society which considered Indians inferior wasn't impressed.

Several novels had been published in the 1870's. For example, "Nelly's Silver Mine" told of a young girl who came to Ute Pass from the East and found a silver mine. But the mine was unproductive, and Nelly finally found security with a wealthy family.

Helen and her husband went to California, visited Spanish missions, studied tribes in Mexico, New Mexico and Oregon. Her dedication led the Interior Department to make her a special agent (1882) to report on the Spanish missions.

Impressed with the great effect her fiction had, she wrote a novel about the hardships caused by racist and government attitudes towards the Indians. This, of course, was "Ramona" (1884), which dramatized the plight of the noble Indian with the story of frustrated lovers in California.

A fall seriously injured her knee. Her companion during home convalescence was Mrs. Myers, whose husband owned a hardware store in Colorado City.

Helen went to San Francisco to consult a doctor, and there a more serious ailment was discovered—probably cancer of the stomach. She died in San Francisco (Aug. 12, 1885) and was brought back to Colorado Springs and buried at her Inspiration Point. To protect it from the curious, her body was eventually moved to Evergreen cemetery.

"She" confessed disappointment that her work is so little accessible. Librarians have purged her books, and they have gone out of print.

She found happiness in Colorado Springs, though willfulness and dedication to her work kept her aloof. Mrs. Hel-muth/Jackson concluded: she was admired as a writer, but not loved as a woman.

This Month's Meeting:

11 am, Friday, Oct. 9th
Trinity U. M. Church, 701 N. 20th
Just west of the Uintah Gardens Shopping Center.
For lunch reservations please phone
Lyn Owen, 473-1846
(You may leave a message at any time.)

Next Month's Meeting

11 am, Friday, Nov. 13th

Midland School's Older Than It Thought; Plans 103rd Birthday Party

When the time came to celebrate Midland school's 100th birthday, staff and parents found they were three years older than they assumed. Hence, from Oct. 5 through Oct. 10th, the school will observe its 103rd birthday. It says it's the oldest school in Dist. 11.

A number of special activities are scheduled during the school day, but the public is invited to the grand finales.

Friday, Oct. 9, from 7 to 8:30, a gala square dance will be sponsored by the Midland P-TA in the school gym. The public is invited to participate.

Saturday, Oct. 10th, there will be a luncheon and program. The lunch will be served at noon, and if you'd like to attend you're asked to make reservations by Wed., Oct. 8. Call June Terry, 473-7042; or Joe Trujillo, 636-3218 for lunch reservations.

A program follows at 1:00 which will recognize guests, summarize the school's history, and present pictures and student-written essays read by those who wrote them. A marker will be dedicated at the conclusion.

Memorabilia will be on display after the program, with pie, coffee and punch served in the gym. You may sign up for a 6½ x 10 school picture.

Friends, patrons, ex-students and former teachers are urged to attend. If you miss the celebration, you'll have to wait a hundred years for another!

ROLL ☒ CALL

from our last meeting:

Forty-two, including a nice number of visitors, attended our September meeting. Members who signed in are:

Edwin Bathke	Jan Knox
Sally Brawner	Aldine Lipe
Ralph Conner	Elizabeth Mares
Virginia E. Cox	Dorothy McGlasson
John Croff	Helen Michelson
Lucille Cunningham	Ursula Monroe
Ed Curry	Margaret Nichols
Martha Curry	Lyn Owen
Liz Geiss	Maloa Read
Veda Goosman	Jim Rogers
Marjorie Harris	Liliane Ross
Catherine Henderson	Harriet Seibel
Rosemary Hetzler	Martha Simons
Ann Hiskey	John Simpson
Sandi Hoewisch	Rose Slusher
Joyce Johns	Wilma Stephens
Madeline Keas	Bessie Wreath

We were pleased that Ed Helmuth accompanied his wife (and acted as projectionist) in her presentation, and that both stayed for lunch.

Doris Baab was a visitor from White House Ranch.

Our other visitors were:

Betty Fisher
Stella Ludwikowski
Mary Swanson
Gene Tarbert

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Croff, Treasurer

Report as of Aug. 31, 1992

(A \$1,000 check was written as earnest money for our church purchase, but no purchase was made.)

Deposit to PPNat'l	\$27.00
Int. PPNat'l, for Aug (2.15%)	125.30
Bal. in PPNat'l as of 9/2	65,104.25
Bank Western int. (5.135%)	909.64
Balance Bank Western	36,504.82
PPNat'l Int on Cert of Dep (3.6%)	38.75
Bal PP Nat'l Cert of Dep	12,712.25
Wrld Int on Cert of Dep (4.11%)	50.31
Bal Wrld Cert of Dep	40,760.24

SECRETARY'S EXPENSES

Ralph Conner, Secretary

Report as of 10/1/92

9/2 147 newsletters postage	42.63
Sept misc. postage	2.90
9/11 Speakers lunches	10.00
Sept. NL; negs and plate	22.04
Oct. NL; negs and plate	12.10
Total due sec'y for Sept.	89.67

WESTWORD

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, Inc., a non-profit corporation, Post Office Box 6702, Colorado Springs, CO. 80934.

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was formed to maintain the memory of Colorado City (1859-1917), to encourage research, to preserve pictures, to keep alive the unique culture and spirit of Westside Colorado Springs, and to establish a history center in honor of 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 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 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 into 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

President	Joyce Johns	635-4649
Vice President	Jan Knox	495-3359
Secretary	Ralph Conner	634-0895
Treasurer	John Croff	632-2896
	Vera Chambon	634-2340
	Virginia Cox	635-8705
	Lucille Cunningham (wrk)	636-9341
	Sandi Hoewisch (wrk)	635-2266
	Dorothy McGlasson	632-1932
	Pat Patton	574-6976
	Leon Young	633-1543
	or wrk	633-2621