

March 1, 1993

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

Two women who are serious about history add their names to our roll this month.

Doris Baab first heard about us through contact with one of our members at the Colorado Springs Pioneers' Museum. She attended a meeting and thought well enough of us to join. Besides the Pioneers' Museum she's active at White House Ranch.

Lee Michels is a Westside native who is back "home" after nine years in California. What is most intriguing is that she is well acquainted (through research) with **Laura Belle McDaniel**—most prominent among local Madams. She hopes to publish a book about her, and indicates she'd be willing to share what she knows in a future O.C.C.H.S. program!

History Center Progress Picking Up

Inspections, Zoning and Insurance Get Attention

We've begun gradually moving artifacts that have been accessioned into our new building at 1 S. 24th, while we undergo a series of inspections and unravel the inevitable red tape.

The building now has something it has lacked for several years—insurance. We took out the minimum to protect the building and guard against liability.

Insurance and other matters hinged on an inspection by the Regional Building Department. This has been done, and no disagreeable surprises came up. A summary of some major recommendations from the inspectors appears on page 3, at the bottom of col. 1. We'll seek foundation help for many of the items listed.

Other pending moves are rezoning (from a strictly residential zone to an Office/Residential zone OR) and exemption from property taxes.

We've asked **Michael Collins**, the architect who guided us when we sought to buy 2611 W. Colorado, to submit a proposal for developing plans, getting the zone change and arranging estimates of costs of improvements and repairs. This is a major step before we seek foundation help.

Members Rally To Give Early Support

It's too early to seek foundation grants, but we have begun receiving financial support towards our future history center. Members have given \$2,125 for our work at 1 S. 24th.

Lucile Mathews Ellis has made two sizeable and most generous gifts towards specific needs of our future history center.

Ed and Martha Curry made an unrestricted contribution for use wherever the need is greatest. Gifts came from new member **Catherine Hinson** and renewing-member **Jean Christopher**.

Sandi Hoewisch donated two display heads from her shop, Vignettes of Old Colorado City, for future exhibits.

We acknowledge with thanks the help of **D. L. Bump**, a member of the Immanuel Missionary Church which formerly owned our building. He repaired a pipe which burst during a cold spell and showered a small room and the basement with water. The shower left things damp, but did no permanent damage.

We should also thank Colorado Springs which, by coincidence, just installed handicap ramps in the curb outside our building!

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

We'll Learn Story Of Rodeo Cowboys

The history of the rodeo cowboy from his ranch and trail-drive beginnings to the present is scheduled for Mar. 12, presented by **Patricia Florence**.

Ms. Florence is assistant director and curator of the Pro-Rodeo Hall of Fame. She's trained in museum work and historic preservation, with an advanced degree from Colorado State.

She says, "Many people aren't aware of the beginnings of rodeo, and may not know about cowboy influence of the early days."

She'll touch on the cowgirls and wild west shows, too, illustrating her talk with slides.

'Family' Marches to Honor St. Pat

We'll again participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade, noon, Sat., March 13th.

Members are invited to join. We'll represent a typical family around the turn of the century, but it can be as "extended" a family as necessary to include anyone who wants to march.

Briefly:

"Welcome back" to **Geraldine Cunningham**, who came to our February meeting after a period of illness.

A little sympathy's in order for **Marillia Garret** who was recovering from a broken hip when she fell and broke her other hip.

Mary Nell Trapp is enduring discomforts of knee trouble.

Gene Brent is undergoing a tedious amount of testing as doctors try to find out what's ailing him. So far he's dumb-founded them all!

Westside Memories: Turning Back the Clock on Local Events

Twenty-five Years Ago

March, 1968

Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Cox opened a self-service gasoline station at 604 S. 8th; Marvin Bultema opened Westside Texaco at 651 S. 21st.

Bartender and patrons of Benny's, 517 W. Colorado, jumped a lone robber who herded patrons into a restroom. Joe Trujillo, 317 W. Costilla, refused to be herded, scuffled with the gunman, and led a free-for-all which pinned the robber and scattered loot. Claire Alfred Gann, bartender at Fred's, 2511 W. Colorado, was shot by a patron following a dispute. Gann and patrons wrestled the gun away and held the man until police arrived.

Duplicate casts at West Junior presented "Little Acorns," a play about a family of children who try to prevent their father's re-marriage.

Westside Lumber honored in New York for its name-brand merchandising.

Hayes Motor Co., 24 S. Walnut, in its 30th year of business, established leasing and baby-pattern businesses.

Fifty Years Ago

March, 1943

Role of Honor, on west wall of Busy Corner Drugs, listing local men in service, reached 3,500 names and began running out of space.

Highway Patrol warned that 35 mph speed limit to Camp Carson and Peterson Field would be enforced.

Silver Shield, built as a power plant in 1900 and more recently a leading nightclub of the region, was to be torn down. It was northeast of the city.

Japanese children at the internment camp at Granada, CO, complained about always being "the enemy" in games, said they wanted to be Americans some of the time. Japanese internees represented about two-thirds of the 7,000 population of the town.

West Junior led the the schools in purchase of war bonds and stamps. West averaged \$5.77 per pupil, compared with a district average of \$1.60.

School district announced that only "regular customers" would be served school lunches. When point rationing began, many parents tried to eke out the family food supply by having children eat at school cafeterias.

The number of abandoned dogs increased, presumably let loose by families that couldn't feed them because of rationing.

Sanitary Market, 2508 W. Colorado, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Schmeiser for 20 years, announced: "This store will close its doors for the duration, or at least until there is a letup in government regulations."

Seventy-five Years Ago

March, 1918

State Supreme Court was asked to decide who owned land occupied by county courthouse—city or county. At issue was who should pay for paving streets north and west of courthouse. Besides, a district court injunction forbade erection of the courthouse there!

Portland Co. would move its reduction mill to Victor, although the U.S. government would use the old plant to conduct secret experiments on chemical and metallurgical processes. Portland, opened 1902, was second-oldest gold mill in the nation; 70% of its ore was from the Portland mine.

A. E. Carlton and his associates increased Midland gross revenue by 22%, but wartime conditions would limit its profits.

There was a surplus of meat—no more meatless days. But all were urged to abstain from wheat.

J. V. Smith donated rooms at 17th and Colorado where Westside Red Cross ladies could do volunteer work.

Policemen asked to receive a day off every ten days.

J. B. Richards, secretary of the West Colorado Springs Improvement Asso., complained to the City Council about excessive Westside insurance rates. Springs' rate was 32%; Westside was 49%. Ivywild, not even in the city, had a rate of 40%.

Equipment ordered for the Westside "Ramona" playground would create a stellar facility. Would have tennis and volleyball courts, two sanitary toilets and a drinking fountain. Play equipment would include a funfill coaster, a slide coaster with three waves, one giant stride, a revolving chair swing with ball-bearing joints, a six-swing and baby-swing sets.

Hubert Howe Bancroft, 86, died in San Francisco. He collected manuscripts and books, invented a card index system, and wrote history books. Bancroft Park was named for him.

Mrs. Percy A. Dunn and children left for Memphis to make their home.

Forest Service would pay men \$2.25 a day to plant trees on 300 acres of Bear Creek Canon. Men would supply bedrolls, government would supply board and sleeping quarters.

One Hundred Years Ago

March, 1893

Near-westside Locke school was overcrowded, and what space it had was miserable and inadequate.

Work on Midland Terminal railroad halted until April because of weather.

William Braxton, who lived in Colorado City last summer, died in Cripple Creek from bronchitis. Braxton imitated sounds and gave musical impressions, called himself the "champion imitator of the world."

Citizens' ticket nominated J. D. Faulkner for mayor, and trustees W. A. Love, F.F. Schreiber and M. Hennessey.

Wags told an English visitor, and he accepted unquestioningly, the "fact" that Balanced Rock in the Garden of the Gods turned on its axis once every 24 hours. He planned to remain at the scene for one revolution.

125 Years Ago

March, 1968

"A gentleman" took over Colorado City's hotel, supplied clean beds and towels and good meals.

Mineral springs near Colorado City sold by George Crater to parties from the east. They planned a fine hotel.

Telegraph company was organized in Denver to build a line through Colorado City to Santa Fe. Crews expected to build 6 miles a day in good weather.

Agnew's ox-train of ten wagons from Fontaine [Pueblo] arrived in Denver loaded with corn.

Men improved the Plum Creek Road for stagecoaches to the Douglas county line. County supplied wood for bridges. It would cut travel from Denver to Colorado City to 60 miles, and from Denver to Pueblo to 100.

Smoky Hill coach took out Gen'l Palmer, Dr. Bell and Mr. Leland.

Colorado statehood wouldn't be pressed in Congress until current impeachment issues were settled.

At Terrill's station, 15 miles south of Colorado City, crew with a wagon-load of goods for Pueblo lost all and barely escaped death. Winds carried flames from their campfire to an abandoned house where they slept, and to the wagon. A keg of powder blew up with no damage, but one man, and a woman sleeping in the wagon, were burned. All was gone in 10 minutes.

Judge Halleck came from Denver to conduct District Court. Isaac Hutchings represented the county at Denver to plan a state fair.

Hang In There a Little Longer, Historic Resources; Help Is On the Way!

Financial constraints mean there won't be a lot of money or high technology, but Colorado Springs is making a determined effort to protect our architectural, historic and archaeological treasures.

Progress made so far and future goals were reported at our Feb. 12th meeting by **Joan Frederick**, a member of the Historic Preservation Board, and **Tim Scanlon** of the City's Comprehensive Planning Division. The information was based on their report to the City Council in January, which gained council endorsement.

Objective is to identify, promote and enhance historic properties of the city and to educate the public on the benefits of historic preservation.

First step is to establish a guide to identify properties of historic and architectural significance, and to make a record of them. Besides a general inventory, plans include special attention to Van Briggles tile, mining-related resources (such as Wood and Cascade residences, the Independence and Mining Exchange buildings), the reminders of the city's role in tuberculosis treatment, and resources associated with local railroads.

Another phase will enhance these resources as tourist attractions by assembling information for tour guides and promoting walking-tour brochures.

**You Have Survived THIS Long
Without Much Recognition
or Protection; Keep Faith**

A number of other objectives are to foster civic pride, encourage preservation of both private and publically-owned resources, recognize the contributions these resources make and educate the public to their value, and to encourage use of historic sites for education and enjoyment.

Among ways of achieving some of these goals would be fiscal incentives and technical assistance. Zoning could play a part—both regarding city-owned properties and through "overlay zoning" to protect threatened resources. The city will likely put some of its own buildings on the National Register of historic properties.

The City hopes to host the annual conference of Colorado Preservation, Inc., in 1997.

Education efforts would be directed on an annual basis to those who come in contact with tourists, by developing units and study materials for use in the schools, and through signs, awards and a speakers' bureau.

Historic surveys and inventories have been completed for Old Colorado City and the Westside neighborhood, as well as for Downtown, Shooks Run, Mesa Springs, Knob Hill. Efforts along the line described at our meeting began in earnest in 1987 with passage of a city ordinance.

CORRESPONDENCE

We were pleased to hear from **Larry Borchert** who added some personal memories in response to January's WestWord.

An item from fifty years ago, in the midst of World War Two, mentioned that eight Westside filling stations had closed, leaving only three operating on the West Side. Mr. Borchert supplied additional details not contained in the newspaper story that was the basis of Westside Memories. The three stations that continued in business, says Mr. Borchert, were the Speedway at 2632 W. Colorado, run by Chuck Hamilton and C. D. Peeler; at 2331 W. Colorado, now the site of the Pikes Peak National drive-in windows; and at 2601 W. Colorado, now occupied by the Bon Ton (until recently, Kennedy's) Restaurant.

Mr. Borchert recalls his own experience with the high winds and several days of rain and

sleet at that time. He made a delivery, and when he returned to the Lightning Cleaners he found winds had blown off a roof which was lying across the electric wires. Mr. Borchert held up the misplaced roof with a pole until his wife could get help to keep the wires from shorting. When it was over, he could barely move.

Fort Carson endured disastrous high winds in 1950, but the newspapers say Camp Carson faced a similar ordeal in 1943 when winds caused 23 buildings to burn.

He responds to Veda Goosman's comments about the 1935 flood with his personal recollections. Only the Bijou bridge allowed communication between east and west; the Eighth St. bridge had one-lane traffic for a while; and, of course, both the Tejon and Nevada bridges were totally destroyed, several houses moved by the waters, and the couple stranded on top of their car in the middle of Fountain

Creek were swept away.

Mr. Borchert recalls that their bodies were found after the waters receded, but other accounts indicate their bodies were never recovered. Does anybody have a firm recollection one way or the other? Was the couple ever identified by name?

He remembers three or four days of rain at the time of the flood, and was employed part time then at the Superior Cleaners while owners Pearl and Lawrence Wyndle vacationed.

(The columns of WestWord are open whenever space allows. We invite others to send recollections of Colorado City's past when the mood strikes. Some of our members have impressive memories and would likely respond to questions if they have relevant first-hand experiences. Your letters will become a permanent record of our local history.)

Current Status of our 1993 Budget

* Indicates a sum spent or committed

ESTIMATED 1993 INCOME

1993-94 memberships	\$660
Territory Days	100
World Savings CD	1,700
Pikes Peak Nat'l CD	150
Credit Union (\$30,000, 4%)	1,215
TOTAL "EARNED" INCOME	3,825
Less 50% (to endowment)	1,912
BALANCE FOR EXPENSES	1,912
Member contributions to 3/1	2,125
INCOME FOR 1993 EXPENSES	4,137

ANNUAL EXPENSES (non-building)

Newsletter (est)	600
Guest luncheons (est)	60
Misc. postage (est)	50
Courtesy fund (est)	20
Reincorporation and new hdq.	20
Credit union membership	*25
Total annual expenses	775

BUILDING EXPENSES (one-time)

Property tax exemption fee	*75
Regional Bldg. Inspection fee	*150
Zoning and variance fees (est)	465
Interest on \$30,000	*2,990
Telephone installation	70
Answering service installation	25
Total one-time bldg expenses	3,775

BUILDING EXPENSES (continuing)

Telephone (full year)	300
Answering service (full year)	225
Utilities	
Trash collection	
Snow removal and lawn care	
Preservation supplies	
Exhibits (repairs, photo dups, signs)	
(\$1,000 contributed for this item)	
Insurance	826

BUILDING (rehabilitation)

(Many of these are recommendations from Regional Building Inspectors)

Architect's fees

New roof (\$1,000 contributed)

Asbestos check for ceiling tile

Handrail to basement

Enclose landing in basement

Replace/repair floor in basement

Install fire-resistant ceiling (bsmnt)

Air circulation, especially in basement

Change trap in "kitchen"

Exit signs in basement

Handicap entrance

Handicap restrooms

Exhaust fans in restrooms

Electrician's check-up (polarity, above-ceiling wiring, grounding, etc.)

Remove antique water heater

Connector for current water heater

Sprinkler system (?)

Smoke detection system (?)

Correct exit doors

Fire extinguishers

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Old Colorado City Historical Society
March 1, 1993

MEETING MAR
THIS MONTH 12

11 am at Trinity U. M. Church, 1920 North 20th
Located just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center
To make or cancel luncheon reservations, please phone
LYN OWEN, 473-1846 You may leave a message
at any time.

MEETING APR
NEXT MONTH 9

ROLL ☒ CALL

from our last meeting:

It's rare for us to meet with no visitors, but except for our speakers, our February meeting was members-only! The 35 who signed in were:

Kay Arnold	Marjorie Harris
Ed Bathke	Orrin R. Haynes
Sally Brawner	Ann Hiskey
Bertha Chilcott	David Hughes
Carl T. Chilcott	Jerry Iverson
Jean Christopher	Joyce Johns
Ralph Conner	Jan Knox
Virginia Cox	Dorothy McGlasson
John Croff	Lyn Owen
Arnold Cunningham	Maloa Read
Geraldine Cunningham	
Lucille Cunningham	
Ed Curry	Harriet Seibel
Martha Curry	B. E. Tillotson
Lucile Ellis	Jean Tillotson
Leland Feitz	Bud Walker
Liz Geiss	Jo Walker
Veda Goosman	Bessie Wreath
Eileen Graham	

VISITORS AND GUESTS

Jean Frederick Tim Scanlon

SECRETARY'S EXPENSES

Ralph Conner, Secretary

12/31 Neg and plate, Feb NL	12.10
2/3 Postage, visitor newsletters	1.74
2/12 Guest luncheons	10.00
TOTAL DUE SEC'Y 3/1	23.84

Historic Trivia

A few unimportant historic items as remembered by the late **Luther McKnight**.

The melt house at the Gold Cycle Mill was the only building with totally barred windows. Gold bars produced there were marked "Golden Cycle" with metal stamps, a letter at a time.

A sign in the post office read, "Don't blow this safe, it's unlocked. It's used for fire protection only."

Even after the El Paso canal was no longer operational, water would be run in it every seven years to keep alive the firms' water rights.

Midland railroad boilermakers became totally deaf after a while.

Eventually, the Golden Cycle mill was automated, but until then it took 25 men to unload the ore.

Colorado City had a deaf piano tuner. He worked by feeling vibrations.

WESTWORD

Edited by Ralph Conner, 719/634-0895

Vol. VIII, Nbr. 9 Mar. 1, 1993

Published the first of almost every month by the non-profit corporation

The Old Colorado City
Historical Society, Inc.

1 S. 24th

Colorado Springs, CO. 80904.

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was formed to maintain the memory of Colorado City (1859-1917), encourage research, preserve pictures, keep alive the unique culture and spirit of Westside Colorado Springs, and establish a history center at 1 S. 24th 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 (work)	636-9341
	Sandi Hoewisch (work)	635-2266
	Dorothy McGlasson	632-1932
	Pat Patton	574-6976
	Leon Young (work)	633-2621