WEST Old Colorado City Historical Society WORD

Friday, September 11

Can You Create a Program on *Hats?*

Our meetings resume at Trinity United Methodist church when we meet again, Oct. 9. We should expect a fun-filled and off-beat program when Esther Wickard informs us about HATS.

Don't assume you know anything about them, for Ms. Wickard's wicked look at them is different than anything you've seen before, we're assured by Jan Knox, vice president and program chairperson. (If you'll pardon the pun) she'll cover both men and women. We're promised a program that's tops!

Expedition Goes to Sand Creek Ground

O.C.C.H.S. members joined in a car excursion to the site of the Sand Creek Massacre on June 22nd, under leadership of member Kay Arnold. Fourteen people made the trip in five cars.

An enthusiastic participant was Raymond J. Hill and family of Sterling Heights, Michigan. Hill is a member of O. C. C. H. S. courtesy of Stanley DeGeer, and he read of the Sand Creek excursion in WestWord. The family scheduled their trip to take advantage of the Sand Creek trip.

The journey included a rest stop at Punkin Center, a visit to the historical museum in Kit Carson, lunch at Eads, a stop to read the historical marker in Chivington, a turn-off on Battleground road to the marble marker overlooking dry Sand Creek at the Big South Bend. The Hill party stayed overnight at La Junta, took in the Koshare Indian Dancers and moved on to Alamosa. Mrs. Arnold returned by way of Pueblo; others returned home from the monument site.

Kay reported on the event at a Society meeting, after reading a book on the subject which brought "near-hysterical tears of shame," she says, and led her to create her "Aunt KayA" character to portray a pioneer homemaker and friend of native Americans. Earlier difficulties in finding the site led to correspondence with the State Historical Society, which has recently improved markings in the area.

This marks the end of Kay's regular participation in O.C.C.H.S. meetings and activities, since she will move, soon after today's meeting, to Riverside, California. Two sons live there. Her home here is occupied by her daughter and grandchildren.

We're sorry to lose a person as interested and active as Kay has been, representing us on the Westside Communications Council, baking cookies and handling publicity.

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We appreciate Rev. David Clark's expansion of his membership to include his family, adding his wife Janice and son Tim to our rolls.

A former resident now living in Nyack, New York, Sherry Nay Acker, a teacher and student of history, has taken out a membership in our support.

Today's Meeting! Visit Up Ute Pass

We'll learn today what Ute Pass has to offer in museums and eating establishments. If we feel envy, it's because Ute Pass has the kind of museum we want!

O.C.C.H.S. member and executive director of the Ute Pass Museum, Robert Moore, will brief us on running a museum and we'll have a chance to examine the displays before we adjourn up the Pass to Chipita Garden Inn for lunch and meeting.

Do We Still Oppose PM Name Change?

The Colorado Springs City Council has not yet considered the recommendation of the Pioneer Museum board that the name be changed to the Colorado Heritage Museum. Next meeting of the Council is Sept. 22nd. The Museum board met yesterday, and Carl Chilcott will be able to report on what occurred.

The Old Colorado City Historical Society has gone on record as opposing a name change, and it would be timely to again express that opposition if we still feel that same way. We can discuss that at today's meeting.

Who deserves A GOOD WORD?

Help us keep in touch with our members facing illness or difficulties. Phone Lyn Owen, 473-1846, and let her send a kind word on behalf of all O.C.C.H.S. members.

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

Twenty-five Years Ago
October, 1962

A pedestrian-actuated signal has been installed at Colorado and Court streets in response to heavy traffic in the Westside business district.

Plans and specification are available fo. bidders interested in building a new underpass in the 400 block of West Fontanero, to provide access from the freeway to the city's street-department garage and warehouse.

Billy Bartlett, 6, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Bartlett, 2025 W. Bijou, was one of nine local youths appearing in a national TV commercial by Alexander Film Company, shown on "My Three Sons" to introduce the 1963 Chevrolet.

Rev. Albert W. Luce died at the age of 83. He established the Easter Sunrise Services at the Garden of the Gods when pastor of the West Pikes Peak Christian Church, and had lived with his on at 1230 W. Pikes Peak.

The road linking Mesa Road near the arden of the Gods with the Fillmore nterchange of the Freeway is now paved and open.

New officers installed at West Junior: Judy Payne, Bob Dyck, student presidents; Sue Stiefel and Michael Link, vice presidents; Jean Jennings and Richard Eisenburg, eighth-grade assistants to the presidents.

Colorado Springs Color Slide Club met at the Westside Library. Ralph Green won one category with his picture of "Burney Falls."

Dawn Restaurant, run by Charles Whale, Sr., opened at 815 W. Colorado.

Fifty Years Ago
October, 1937

A study was made of businesses in the 24, 25 and 26-hundred blocks of Colorado Avenue, to discover merchants' reactions to re-numbering the stores to get rid of "½" numbers—including a "¾" on the south side of the 2400 block. J. E. Freidinger started the effort to get rid of his own 2500½ address. The town was laid out with one number per lot, making 31 and 32 the "last" numbers. City Manager Mosley and Surveyor F. O. Ray say the problem could be answered by doubling numbers so the addresses would reach 63 and 64. A poll of businessmen showed 47 merchants opposed and 6 in favor. Chief objections came from expense of reprinting stationery and signs, and inconsistency with other streets.

Old time folk dancing on the second floor of Mack's hall, 2431 W. Colorado.

A re-organizational meeting of the West Side Commercial Club was held at Newton Lumber Company on south 25th. Forty businessmen were present, hoping to re-establish the organization which has been inactive for four years. W. R. Weeden was chosen president, Clay Aslin vice president, and Frank H. Cook secretary-treasurer. The club will sponsor clean-up and social events and meet twice a month. Others present included: R. G. McGrath, George B. McDonald, George Cross, Dr. J. P. Gergen, K. B. Dye, E. D. Corrin, G. F. Wilson, A. J. Matthews, O. E. Thrasher, Wilbur H. Barber, Daniel O. Shop, Benton Hamilton, N. M. Chamberlain, V. E. Cooper, Bob White, E. A. Hoff, F. E. Lachowsky, Edward O. Abrahamson, F. E. Koontz, C. B. Tinsley, J. V. Smith, C. E. Pine, W. L. Hobbs, Walter Gemmill, A. E. Davis, D. A. Nichols, J. E. Freidinger, F. E. Smith, P. P. Scott, H. C. Hill, J. C. McCreary, Wiley H. Clements, W. D. Wright, W. A. Osborne, and W. L. Moore.

Seventy-five Years Ago
October, 1912

Anthony Bott has offered his water system to Colorado City. It consists of 150 shares of Colorado City Water Co., and 90 acres in or near Sutherland Canon. Another 50 shares in the water company are owned by the estate of Jacob Becker. In return, Mr. Bott asks the City's cooperation in collecting from delinquent customers, and free water to no more than 10 Bott properties for his lifetime and a year after his death. Much of the City is served by the Colorado Springs' water system, and Bott recommends that Colorado City should not establish a city-wide system.

The **Iris** this month is enlarged from 5 to 6 columns to give space for "such copy as the Publicity Committee of the Dry Colorado League may wish to put before the people."

The school board has authorized ring swings and a see-saw at each of the district's grade schools.

Most of last year's high school graduates have begun their chosen work. Two entered business, four went to college, and a number are teaching.

Longfellow school was closed for over a week to allow a thorough cleaning and disinfecting after two studen came down with diphtheria.

The National Hotel is advertising that its dining room is again open to the public.

Police Officers Burson and Stocker have been laid off to reduce expenses.

E. R. Ripley has rebuilt and improved portions of his greenhouse.

A bloody free-for-all at Geising's saloon left Hugh Gates of Manitou severely cut above the eye with a beer glass. Officers Colbert and Moats charged Gates and Ed Bell of Colorado Springs with fighting.

One Hundred Years Ago
October, 1887

The county road from Calvert Heights subdivision north to Colorado City has been finished to the rear of D. F. Kinsman's residence. It's 60 feet wide and is the nearest outlet for Colorado City from the Midland shops, Bott's addition, and Calvert Heights. It shortens the old road by a thousand feet, and gives Colorado City an outlet to Bear Creek Canon a mile shorter than the old route. [It's likely this is today's 21st street.]

Election judges in the Colorado City precinct are W. A. Love, A. Z. Sheldon, and Robert Finley. Voting will be at the school house.

Colorado Midland has ordered a variety of 22 cars costing $91,400 from the Pullman Palace Car company.

Western Union Telegraph is ready to handle messages for points on the Colorado Midland railway. Rate for ten words between Colorado City and Colorado Springs is 25¢; other stations on the Midland cost 40¢.

The Colorado City Water Company filed articles of incorporation. Board of directors is Anthony Bott, Jacob Becker, John Campbell and L. S. Langmeyer.

Among items in the Midland railroad exhibit at the Denver exposition are a stone mantel quarried by Anthony Bott, and George Snider's collection of stalagmites and stalactites from the Grand Caverns at Manitou.

John Delaney is in jail awaiting trial on grand larceny charges. He was arrested in Colorado Springs for horse-stealing on information from the Denv Police Chief, and was found to be th man who rented a horse in September from H. B. Quimby of Colorado City under the name John Smith. Delaney sold Quimby's horse later in Monument.

Colorado City Held an Interest in a Library From Its Earliest Days

From the Wood Donation to the Carnegie, Penrose Libraries With Few Minor Hitches

Colorado City supported a library with such enthusiasm there were sometimes disputes over who should be in charge, according to Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, O.C.C.H.S. member and present librarian at the Old Colorado City branch of the Penrose Public Library, in the talk she presented at our meeting May 8.

The town's first library was established by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union at 412½ Colorado (2411½ West Colorado). To enlarge their small collection, the ladies asked Mrs. Lydia Wood of Manitou Springs for a donation, since she had made a gift to a library in Humbolt, Nebraska.

She agreed to donate one thousand dollars, but gave it to Colorado City. The city agreed to appropriate city funds until a library tax could be voted. Jan. 6, 1896, the Wood Free Library was dedicated, named in honor of its benefactor. She was then 64.

Those at the dedication ceremony heard from Judge Horace G. Lund, Colorado College president W. F. Slocum, Mrs. Wood's second husband, G. W. Wood, and the Midland Band.

Mrs. E. D. Dunning was the first librarian, presiding over the ground floor of the W.C.T.U. building. The reading room, lighted by Wellsbach Gas Lamps, was always free to the public; to take books home you paid a yearly fee of $1.50.

Miss Bertha Johnson was librarian in 1898 and Miss Leona Lucas in 1901. Miss Lucas supervised the transfer of the "Wood Free Library and Reading Room" into the Templeton building, on the northwest corner of Colorado and 24th. The library was owned by the city but administered by the Wood Library board.

As plans developed for a new Carnegie library building on Pikes Peak at the end of Court street, there was dispute over its future administration. Should it be the Wood or the Carnegie Library board? Not until the building was completed and being readied for opening in December, 1904, did the two groups agree that the Wood board would remain in charge.

The books were moved from the Templeton building, and the new library's official birthdate became Dec. 4, 1904, when Mayor Ellinthorpe delivered the deed, insurance policies and other papers in a public ceremony.

Mrs. John R. Watt was temporary librarian during construction and was succeeded in 1905 by Miss Eleanor Smelser, who served 14 years, including June, 1917, when annexation to Colorado Springs occurred. Colorado City sold the building and contents to the Springs' library for a dollar.

After annexation it was known as the West End Branch. Successive librarians were: Mrs. Helen Ellinwood, Mrs. Pearl Hughes (who had the longest tenure—from 1930 to 1949), Mrs. Edith Snyder, Mrs. Ina Gadd, Mrs. Margaret Jensen, Mrs. Lucille Jezek, Mrs. Shirley Cimmings, Mrs. Eunice Watson, Mrs. Lorna Byrd, Mrs. Ann Stoltis-Stolz and Mrs. Elizabeth Evans presently in charge.

The library was re-named the Colorado City branch May 27, 1977, recognizing Westside resurgence and its designation as a historic district.

Mrs. Evans gave the flavor of the library's early days, and recalled a dedicated librarian, by quoting from an article written by Ruby Lisenby at the request of Edna Stuntz, and published in a P.E.O. yearbook in 1961.

"From the time I was in 6th grade at the old Bancroft School until 1921 when I took a teaching position in Arizona, the library provided for me both an escape into the wonderful world of books, and a challenge to understand the technicalities connected with its operation. One of my brothers once flung at me the taunt, 'You act as if you owned that place'! In a way he was right, and a sense of homecoming is still with me when I enter the building...

"Miss Eleanor Smelser became librarian in 1905 and served until 1919... She was a tall, spare woman, rather homely, I suppose, to those who did not know her. She wore her hair in a high pompadour in front and a neat bun in back. She must have been very nearsighted, for her glasses were thick, but one never doubted that her eyes saw everything... I used to stand at the door to her little office at the left of the building as you face the circulation desk, and watch her working as she talked to me. The small desk she used became for me the symbol of a goal. She disposed of business matters with efficiency and dispatch, sitting very erect, her hands moving quickly over the green cover. I can't remember ever sitting at that little desk, but I used to dream of doing so."

Ruby Lisenby reminisced about the excitement of discovering libraries and books, and "the principal of tempering justice with mercy in the matter of fines for overdue books, especially if children were involved. In those days two cents were ever so many times one cent!"

Ms. Lisenby became a helper, and took charge in 1913 when the librarian took a two-week vacation. In retrospect, she recognized Miss Smelzer's poor health. Miss Smelser died of tuberculosis within three years of her retirement.

Library Screens 'A More Perfect Union'

Friends of the Library, and librarian Betsy Evans of the Old Colorado City Branch, invite all Westsiders, and especially O.C.C. H.S. members, to a video showing of "A More Perfect Union," a dramatization of James Madison's personal journals during creation of the Constition. The 50 minute program was a one-man stage show at the Univ. of Nebraska; it can be checked out after Sept. 19.

Showings are 1, 3, 5 and 7 p.m. Sept. 14, at the Westside library. Light refreshments; no charge.

Briefly...

Best wishes to some members a little under the weather:

Bessie Shantz is working her way through complications from a broken wrist.

Alpa Cook hasn't been feeling up to par.

Aldine Lipe is recovering from a stroke that interrupted a trip in May. We're glad she is able to attend today's meeting.

SECRETARY'S EXPENSES

(Last month's secretary's report should have shown a total of $85.57. The Society has a credit of $31. with the secretary.)

Newsletters & misc. postage	$19.14
Certificates	.53
11x17 paper (newsletters)	15.19
TOTAL EXPENSES (paid)	34.86

Treasurer's Report

(Summary of August and September, 1987)

ENDOWMENT IN AMERICAN FEDERAL AND WORLD SAVINGS		
Balance through 9/9/87		$ 98,997.99
CHECKING ACCOUNT		
Balalnce 7/10/87		12,504.06
Memberships	+10.00	
Interest on Pikes Peak Nat'l acct.	+55.32	
Bank service charge	- .60	
Balance in checking account 8/10/87		12,568.78
Memberships	+50.00	
Interest on Pikes Peak Nat'l acct.	+54.85	
Chk #1051, Ralph Conner (secy's expen.)	-34.86	
Bank service charge	- .60	
Balance in checking account 9/9/87		12,638.57
CHECKING AND S & L BALANCE (Grand total)		111,636.56

Old Colorado City Historical Society
Post Office Box 6702
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80934

WEST WORD

Volume III, Number 2 September 11, 1987

Published the second Friday of almost every month by
THE OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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 historic buildings, mementos and pictures, and to keep alive the unique culture and spirit of Westside Colorado Springs.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month [except in June, July and August] at 11 a. m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 1920 Henderson Avenue—across 19th Street, west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center. The public is welcome at all meetings and no reservation is needed for the program.

The program is followed by a luncheon, served by ladies of the church. Cost is $4 per person. Reservations are required, and can be made by phoning Lyn Owen, 473-1846. Deadline is normally the Wednesday before the meeting, although last-minute change can usually be accommodated up to 5 p. m. the Thursday before the meeting. Since we must pay for all reservations made, please call Lyn Owen to cancel if you find you can't attend.

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual membership is $5 a year; family membership is $10. Renewal falls in April. Members receive our newsletter, and local members will usually be phoned before each meeting.

Also available is a Lifetime membership, for $100. This amount is placed in our Perpetuity/Endowment fund, to be used for long-term projects which have approval from 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:	John Keller		475-
Vice President:	Jan Knox		495-
Secretary:	Ralph Conner		634-[illegible]
Treasurer:	Orville Kenelly	471-0551	473-5307
	Vera Chambon		634-2340
	Virginia Cox		635-8705
	David Hughes		636-2040
	Agnes Johnson		633-8040
	Aldine Lipe		475-1658
	Ruth Maxwell		599-3111
	Leon Young	633-2621	633-1543

Luncheon Reservations (Lyn Owen) 473-1846

NEXT MEETING:
Oct. 9th