

Gifts Bestowed

RALPH CONNER

OCCHS Member **Gene Brent** gave us a rich collection of varied items. Some older items came from the auction of the John Brock Museum, formerly located in the "second" City Hall (of Colorado City) on South 25 Street. One of the pieces is a portrait on canvas of a young lady which has been embellished with jewels and decorations, sewn onto the portrait to give a three-dimensional quality. Gene is intrigued with the idea that it might be a portrait of Laura Bell, but it seems young to be the famous madame and may be a generic picture which someone sought to "fancy up". Brent's contributions include a manuscript of a book by John G. Bock, labeled "JJ Last Roundup". Bock was associated with the JJ Ranch near LaJunta. There is a portrait of Pate [sic] Jones — part owner of the JJ in 1882. Also included are original clippings from Civil War newspapers, an "original" copy of ordinance approving terms and conditions concerning annexation of Colorado City to Colorado Springs, original petitions from 1954 protesting a plan to close the Old Colorado City branch library, and more recent documents pertaining to the Westside 1970s revitalization.

Recent member **David R. Mosher** of Florence sent rare playbills from the Idle Hour theatre and Waycott Opera House of Colorado City, and of the Opera House and Empire theatres of Colorado Springs. His father, DeWitt C. Mosher, had a florist shop at 511 Colorado and in Manitou Springs, and was a musician of note; he was leader of the Illustrated Songs which were a part of theatre programs during the silent era, and performed as part of the live entertainment.

We acknowledge the first membership renewal for next year, from **Orrin Haynes**, who did so at well above the "Donor" category. We appreciate the generous support — thank you!

Our History Center

LUCILLE CUNNINGHAM

The building at 1 South 24 Street, Colorado City's original Baptist Church, was purchased by the Old Colorado City Historical Society on 30 December 1992 for \$99,900. The final payment of \$29,900 was made 30 December 1993.

The purchase was made to establish a History Center to house artifacts and information unique to the Westside. The OCC History Center will house the archives, computer room, gift and book shop, and mineralogy room, as well as a display gallery. Plans and design are being done by Michael H. Collins of Collins Architecture & Design at 219 West Colorado Avenue. Grants and other monies are being sought in order to complete the project. As soon as these are obtained, work on the building will commence.

19 FEBRUARY 94

A WESTSIDE WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

DOROTHY MCGLASSON

Anna-Leah Hathaway, known as the "spud lady", acquired the nickname after giving numerous talks to local groups, including our society, about the history of the potato! She grew up on a potato farm in the Monte Vista area. Ms. Hathaway received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado and became a Colorado Springs resident in 1949. She taught the third grade at Columbia School for nearly 34 years, and retired in 1982. Ms. Hathaway has been active as a volunteer in numerous organizations, including the giftshop at Pioneers Museum, Bear Creek Nature Center, and Memorial Hospital; she is a Treasure Trails Antique Study Group member.

Mrs. Marion Steavenson, a Westside resident, considers herself "almost a native" of Colorado Springs. Born in Denver, she came here with her sister and parents when she was two years old. Both sets of grandparents arrived in the region from England in the 1880s. Mrs. Steavenson's maternal grandfather ran a horsecar, and in the early 1900s, he had a meat market in Colorado City, west of the present Pikes Peak National Bank site. Her father painted private cars for residents of Broadmoor. Mrs. Steavenson was a dressmaker at the Broadmoor Dress Shop and at Katherine's Individual Clothes. She is an accomplished artist, working primarily with oils.

February Meeting

DOROTHY MCGLASSON

Elsie Chambers

Ms. Pat Ferish will be the speaker at the next meeting of the Old Colorado City Historical Society, to be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 701 North 20 Street (just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center), at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, 11 February.

Her subject will be "Elsie Chambers, A Woman For Her Season And Ours". Mrs. Chambers, and her husband Robert, purchased the White House Ranch, near the Garden Of The Gods, in 1874. It became the most successful truck garden in El Paso County.

Ms. Ferish, a resident of Old Colorado City, came to the Pikes Peak region in 1963. She is from Ohio, where she attended Wittenberg University and received undergraduate degrees in Spanish and Education. She earned her masters degree in 1987 with a minor in library science.

Ms. Ferish teaches kindergarten at the Urban Child Care Center. She has worked as a historic interpreter for two seasons at the White House Ranch.

The program will be followed at noon by a luncheon, for which reservations must be made by phoning Lyn Owen at 473-1846.

Treasure Sale



Jan Knox and Kay Arnold are CoChairs for the next fundraiser for the Old Colorado City History Center. A *Treasure Sale* will be held at our building — 1 South 24 Street — on Saturday and Sunday, 14 & 15 May. Donations of furniture, dishes, household items, books, magazines, clothing, jewelry, etc., in good condition, are being accepted. Anyone willing to assist with the *Treasure Sale* (pricing beforehand or with sales on the 14th and 15th) should please contact Kay at 633-2592 or Jan at 495-3359. Contact Jan if you have items to donate. Pickup can be arranged.

Items Of Note

RALPH CONNER

✓ We offer congratulations and a warm welcome to Haning Hughes, wife of Ed and daughter-in-law to Dave and Patsy Hughes. Haning recently became a naturalized citizen of the United States and may be the only OCCHS member who became a citizen by this route!

✓ The California earthquake hit close to home for Rosemary Hetzler. Her brother John, who is nearly blind, and his wife live in Northridge and suffered severe damage. After camping out for several nights, they returned to their badly damaged home, ready to accept the dangers fatalistically. The damage was made worse by the "vertical" nature of the quake, compared with the usual "horizontal". This was in sharp contrast to Colorado Springs, where Rosemary recently shooed about fifteen deer away from her evergreens, as they grazed along Cheyenne Creek.

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

Twenty Five Years Ago

FEBRUARY 1969

★ Local mail superintendent Erman F. Biondidi had a busy month. He warned that those who put improper materials into mailboxes faced a \$1000 fine or three years in jail. He responded to complaints from the county treasurer that tax warrants were "lost or misplaced", saying, "It's impossible for the Colorado Springs Post Office to lose or simply misplace 10,000 pieces of mail in one mailing."

★ County Commissioners faced controversial issue of whether to annex the County Farm to Colorado Springs, in order to get city water and sewer to Cimarron Development property, but residents of Skyway Park worried it might lead to their annexation as well. Commissioners voted against annexation.

★ Thomas N. & Christine Greer selected to operate County Farm for \$300 & \$225 per month, respectively.

★ New pastor at Bethany Baptist Church, 1930 West Colorado, was Rev. Jack G. Davis, a pastor from Vincennes, Indiana and a religious tour travel leader.

Fifty Years Ago

FEBRUARY 1944

★ Payment of \$2000 for bonds submitted by a New York bank closed out the 1902 bond issue by Colorado City school district #1 for construction of Midland and Longfellow Schools. Two bonds remained outstanding after their redemption in 1925.

★ Unoccupied building at 109 South 25 Street destroyed when boys tossed lighted matches through window to search basement where furniture and mattresses were stored. It had been a hotel for a decade fifty years earlier, was John Kelly's pool hall, William J. ("Old Town") Snider's office for the Daily Examiner, an undertaking parlor, paint shop, and garage.

★ West Junior received letters from service persons who had been sent school's Christmas cards. Among respondents: John Morbella, Earl Rozar, Richard Wright, Russell Hill, Milo Power, Kenneth Jones, Dick Teague, John Bowles, Lorenz Christenson, Melvin Bensenberg, Mitchell Dulua, Sam Snively, Ralph Plumb, Willard Schwarze, Richard Dittmore, Bill Crabtree, Bob Wright, Frank Trinajstick, Floyd Sellers, James McCarty, and Keith Beck.

★ During a radio auction, Mrs. M. B. Daniels bid \$1000 in bonds for a pair of nylon hose.

★ Mr. & Mrs. Cletus Ivie, 2231 West Kiowa, accepted the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters for their airman son who had been killed in the Mediterranean. Mr. & Mrs. W. J. B. McAnally, 1526 West Pikes Peak, received a letter from their son, a Japanese prisoner, saying (in September) that he was not wounded or ill. Sgt. Albert Kirby, a West Junior graduate, arrived in California after escaping from Japanese in the Philippines.

★ The *Independent* noted how Henry Slone, 2811 West Boulder, got into beekeeping. In the transfer business, he trucked in logs from Black Forest. Several had bees in them, and neighbor Bert Webb taught him how to hive them; so he went into the business in the San Luis valley.

★ Wheaton Heyse was given a \$10 suspended fine for trimming a hedge in the 700 block of West Kiowa, despite his insistence that it scratched his car and that he trimmed it as carefully as he would his own.

Seventy Five Years Ago

FEBRUARY 1919

★ The Health Commissioner wanted bonds to improve sewers. He proposed a line in Arensdale, which had never had a sewer west of 29th Street. He wanted to extend service from Fifteenth and Vermijo to the area south of the Midland shops and of Bott Avenue. It would service Midland School and surrounding homes, and end dumping of sewage onto the prairie through an arroyo.

★ A late victim of influenza was Walter Routh, 17, survived by parents Mr. & Mrs. T. H. Routh and sister Gladys of 107 North Seventh Street. He was the first local boy scout to die of flu, despite scouts' participation in the Liberty Loan drives during the epidemic.

★ John T. Milliken died of flu in St. Louis. He bought the Golden Cycle mine in Cripple Creek in 1900 from David Moffat and Eben Smith, built the Golden Cycle Mill in Colorado City in 1906, and bought Pikeview coal properties. He sold out in 1915 to A. E. Carlton and associates. Two-thirds of the five million dollar price went to Milliken.

★ Luther McKnight was injured at the Golden Cycle Mill.

★ A. D. Kenyon & Associates, of Denver, bought the Red Mountain inclined railroad in Manitou Springs, and planned a summit pavilion, new grade, and new equipment. It operated for one season in 1913, and then bought at a tax sale by Richard Clough, the contractor who built it; he sold it to new owners.

★ Charles Tutt's and Spencer Penrose's Beaver, Penrose & Northern railroad was discontinued and tracks were to be removed; the eight mile line operated for seven years, carrying fruit from Penrose to the D&RG line. Colorado and Southern tracks between Colorado Springs and Falcon were to be torn up; it was started two years earlier but wartime labor shortages made it inoperable. A. E. Carlton and C. C. Hamlin proposed that the Short Line railroad to Cripple Creek be converted to an auto highway, in settlement of taxes due.

★ A surprise party was given for Nat Leonard at his home, 2101 West Colorado.

★ City and state were debating whether they'd approve Sunday movies.

★ Downtown merchants opposed decision of the Colorado Springs Light, Heat & Power company to discontinue its centralized steam heating plant. Businessmen offered to guarantee profits if the system operated for at least one more year.



Who wouldn't be able to find a suitable corset with 250 to choose from at the January 1919 sale at Kaufman's, with such well-known brands as Warner, Redfeam, Royal Worcester, Kabo, and BonTon.

One Hundred Years Ago

FEBRUARY 1894

★ Ute Pass Paint, built in 1891, was destroyed by fire. Loss was \$70,000, of which \$17,000 was insured. Firemen were hampered by frozen fireplugs and the four-story corrugated iron structure was lost.

★ Federal Court agreed to appoint a receiver for the Midland and asked for an inventory of assets on behalf of bondholders. Hundreds of men worked on the Midland Terminal rail line to convert it from narrow gauge to standard.

★ State Legislature debated establishing a new county with its seat in Cripple Creek, from portions of El Paso, Jefferson, Park, and Fremont. They adjourned before final action, although legislators decided to call it Wootton County.

★ Cripple Creek mine owners resolved to get nine hours work for \$3 per day, but miners kept pressure on for 8-hour workday and twenty minutes off for dinner.

★ The Oxford Club opened in its new location in the Templeton Building. Manager T. J. Matthews had a long-distance telephone installed for his patrons.

★ A 72' drilling rig was established on the south bank of the Fountain, three hundred yards below the Midland Roundhouse, to drill for natural gas. The Colorado City Oil Company was organized by editor Epperson and 48 prominent citizens to search for oil, gas, coal, and artesian water.

★ "Madame" Minnie Eaton, 45, better known as Minnie Smith, was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, following suicide from an overdose of morphine. She'd bought valuable Colorado Avenue property seven years earlier, had done the same in Creede, and then went to Cripple Creek. She was buried beside her first husband, Royster, and Bruce Younger, member of the notorious gang of train and bank robbers.

★ About 250 El Paso County women registered to vote — out of some 2500 eligible. Several dozen had come but didn't have registered voter witnesses. As women voters increased, it might be possible for women to find witnesses of their own gender.

★ George W. Childs died in Philadelphia. He and the late A. J. Drexel had contributed an eighth of the money needed to construct the Union Printers Home.

★ A Postal Telegraph operator in Colorado Springs was in direct connection with a Boston operator — perhaps the longest telegraph connection in the U.S.

★ Two Colorado Springs policemen, visiting a Colorado City saloon, had their attention called to a young customer called "McCoy, the prizefighter." Officer Gatheright recognized him from a picture received that morning, asking for the capture of James "Kid" McCoy. He contacted Colorado City police and McCoy, who was wanted in Kansas, was arrested.

★ The African Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated in Colorado Springs at Pueblo and Weber.

★ Owners of land along the Monument, south of Boulder Street, donated "Willow Park" to Colorado Springs. The *Gazette* suggested that other land along the creek unsuitable for building should also be donated for park purposes.

★ In Colorado Springs, a small person with mustache and goatee asked a Chinese merchant to change a bill. The merchant hadn't seen one like it, and took it next door, where it was identified as a Confederate note. Police were summoned but found only a boy in the shop, along with some faux whiskers. Police declined to prosecute, since the note wasn't counterfeit!

They Work Their Fingers To The Bones

It's time to pay attention to the earliest settlers of Southern Colorado. And we don't mean Indians.

Jay Hanson, Chairman of the Field Research Committee of the Garden Park Paleontology Society, generously traveled from Canon City with his wife Alice to introduce us to local dinosaurs at our meeting 14 January (again at Trinity United Methodist Church, with lunch in the cozy new dining room).

The dinosaurs lived (and died) north of Canon City, on land now controlled by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), beside Four Mile Creek from the slopes around Cripple Creek. It's known as the Garden Park Fossil Area.

There's a lot we don't know about the time referred to as the Jurassic Age, said to be between 140 to 155 million years ago. That was when "Colorado" was close to the equator, before the continents began to drift, and before upheavals which, at three different times, created three sets of "Rocky Mountains". A diverse population of dinosaurs, crocodiles, lizards, mammals, and unusual plants thrived in a mild climate with rainy and dry seasons, occasionally shaded with dust from volcanoes. The unique ecosystem is said to have lasted 10 million years — give or take a tourist season.

Scientists study the apparent stream flows and the fossilized bones, and conclude that some of the creatures died during a drought when the water channel was the last source of water. Other bones accumulated by chance. They were buried by sand and, over time, bones and plants were fossilized under hundreds of feet of soil.

Erosion eventually revealed the fossils, and in 1877 scientists began studying creatures that seemed beyond belief. E. D. Cope and O. C. Marsh quarried in the 1870s and by 1890, one hundred nearly complete dinosaur skeletons had been recovered and studied. We saw pictures of those excavations and of digs in the World War I era as well as the 1950s.

Dr. Hanson noted that, of eight dinosaurs in the Smithsonian Museum, six came from Canon City. Complete skeletons, some relatively rare skulls, and perhaps an egg nesting ground have been found.

In August 1992, a Ft. Carson Chinook helicopter hoisted an intact seven-ton *Stegosaurus* fossil which will make its way to a display in the Denver Museum of Natural History in 1995. For a brief moment, a 140'

cable joined the most modern of aerial technology to remains of a creature said to be 140 million years old.

Dr. Hanson (besides being a PhD, he's a doctor of veterinary medicine), exposed much incidental information, and revealed liberties taken by producers of the "Jurassic Park" movie: *Tyrannosaurus-Rex* existed in the later period called Cretaceous, not the Jurassic Age. There were both herbivorous (plant-eating) and carnivorous (flesh-eating) dinosaurs. Many were huge, but others were no larger than a chicken. We saw a casting which shows the tiny size of a dinosaur (head) brain but the there may have been another "body" brain.

Scientists are still learning, too. One relatively recent conclusion is that dinosaurs did not drag their tails, but carried them birdlike. And in fact, dinosaurs are said to be related to birds.

Colorado is rich with dinosaurs, including the Dinosaur National Monument, hundreds of footprints near LaJunta, and exhibits in the Denver Museum of Natural History.

The Garden Park Paleontology Society is making the area north of Canon City another center for education and research. In cooperation with state and national institutions, the Society raised \$120,000 for a preliminary design for a Dinosaur Discovery Center in the Garden Park area. They envision a project costing \$37,000,000.

The fossil area is on 3500 BLM acres, but a plot of six or seven hundred acres is privately owned and the Society hopes to eventually buy the private land. The museum will be largely underground so as not to intrude on the landscape. It will conserve water and rely on solar panels for much of its energy. Besides housing discoveries, the center will teach how scientists excavate, prepare, and interpret the ancient relics. Around 400,000 visitors are expected per year.

But one needn't wait for the Discovery Center. Signs in the Garden Park Fossil Area interpret area history, and each summer there is a Saturday slide show and site tour at the BLM office (east end of Canon City).

Dr. Hanson's obvious enthusiasm and knowledge and his informal presentation made it easy to like these early Colorado residents, and to admire the work being done to get better acquainted with them. It's part of local history most of us are barely aware of, and you don't have to be in first grade to find the dinosaurs a dramatic and intriguing story.

Here's information to set aside until summer: Entering Canon City on Hwy. 50 from Pueblo, turn left at the first traffic signal (Walnut Street), and immediately turn left again onto the frontage road. The BLM building is about three blocks along the frontage road as you're traveling back eastward. The programs are presented from 6-8 o'clock Saturday evenings in June, July, and August.

Memberships in the Garden Park Paleontology Society are \$15 / Individual (\$5 / Senior) or \$25 / Family. Members get discounts, a members' field day, and a quarterly newsletter. Mailing address is P.O. Box 313, Canon City, CO 81215.



Indian Springs is a Trace Fossil area; tracks there are said to have been made 450 million years ago.



Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 SOUTH 24 STREET COLO SPRINGS CO 80904-3319

WESTWORD

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A NONPROFIT CORPORATION

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SUBMITTAL DEADLINE : 20TH DAY OF EACH MONTH

EDITED BY : RALPH CONNER & SANDI HOEWISCH

MISSION

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was formed to maintain the memory of Colorado City [1859-1917], to encourage research, preserve pictures, and keep alive the unique culture and spirit of Westside Colorado Springs, through education of children and the community and through the eventual establishment of a History Center at 1 South 24 Street

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are welcome at any time, and are renewed in April. Members receive the *Westword* and local members are phoned prior to meetings if desired.

Annual membership classifications are as follows:

Golden (65 +) \$ 5 Family \$ 15
 Golden Family \$ 9 Donor \$ 25
 Individual \$10 Lifetime \$250

Funds from a Lifetime Membership are placed into a Perpetuity/Endowment Fund to be used only for projects which have been approved by two-thirds of the membership. 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Lucille Cunningham 636-9341
Vice President Jan Knox 495-3359
Secretary Ralph Conner 634-0895
Treasurer John Croff 632-2896
 Vera Chambon 634-2340
 Virginia Cox 635-8705
 Orrin Haynes 635-2488
 Sandi Hoewisch 635-2266
 Joyce Johns 635-4649
Publicity Dorothy McGlasson 632-1932
 Leon Young 633-2621

MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 11:00 a.m. the second Friday of each month, excepting June, July, and August. The public is welcome; reservations are not required.

Reservations are required for Luncheon following the meeting. Luncheon cost is usually \$5 per person.

Please phone Lyn Owen at 473-1846 by Tuesday prior to meeting. You may leave a message at any time. If you find you cannot attend, please call to cancel.

MEETING THIS MONTH

11 FEBRUARY 94

AT TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 701 NORTH 20 STREET
 JUST WEST OF UINTAH GARDENS

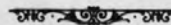
MEETING NEXT MONTH : 11 MARCH 94

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Treasury Report

DISBURSEMENTS & RECEIPTS AS OF 12-31-93

Interest: PPNB	+	10.78
Memberships	+	80.00
Auction Proceeds: 12/15	+	9.00
Oct. negs, plates charged twice	+	24.20
Note paid on History Center	-	32291.00
Postage: Administrative	-	6.58
Fee: Safety Deposit Box	-	10.00
Utilities	-	197.07
Secretary's Expenses: 12/14	-	63.37
Secretary's Expenses: 11/19	-	104.23

ROLL CALL : 14 JANUARY

A total of 48 attended the luncheon which followed the meeting.

<i>Margery Adams</i>	<i>Louise Parker</i>
<i>Kay Arnold</i>	<i>Helen Seibel</i>
<i>Ed Bathke</i>	<i>Rose Slusher</i>
<i>Nancy Bathke</i>	<i>Wilma Stephens</i>
<i>Eileen Braham</i>	<i>David Swearingen</i>
<i>Sally Brauner</i>	<i>B E Tillotson Jr</i>
<i>Jean V Christopher</i>	<i>Jean Tillotson</i>
<i>Ralph Conner</i>	<i>Bud Walker</i>
<i>Virginia E Cox</i>	<i>Jo Walker</i>
<i>Art Crawford</i>	<i>Marty Walker</i>
<i>John Croff</i>	<i>Mary Jo Wallace</i>
<i>Arnold Cunningham</i>	<i>Bessie Wreath</i>
<i>Jerry Cunningham</i>	
<i>Lucille Cunningham</i>	VISITORS & GUESTS
<i>Martha Curry</i>	<i>Michael Bailey</i>
<i>Beverly Disch</i>	<i>Ansis Maris Berzins</i>
<i>Leland Feitz</i>	<i>Arthur Carr</i>
<i>Bob Gaarder</i>	<i>Hazel Carr</i>
<i>Alfred Hagedorn</i>	<i>Joe Emmons</i>
<i>Marjorie Harris</i>	<i>Ethel Even</i>
<i>Orrin R Haynes</i>	<i>Estelle Grater</i>
<i>Mary Heltemes</i>	<i>Alice Hanson</i>
<i>Catherine Henderson</i>	<i>Jay Hanson</i>
<i>Ann Hiskey</i>	<i>Ieva "Eve" Hart</i>
<i>Sandi Hoewisch</i>	<i>Magnus Hok</i>
<i>Jerry Iverson</i>	<i>Owen Knox</i>
<i>Joyce Johns</i>	<i>James Locke</i>
<i>Jan Knox</i>	<i>Gerl Pegler</i>
<i>Marion Steavenson</i>	<i>Kristine Truesdell</i>
<i>Helen Michelson</i>	<i>Johan Valenson</i>
<i>Carl McClure</i>	
<i>Shar McClure</i>	<i>Mr. Valenson & Mr. Hok,</i>
<i>Dorothy McGlasson</i>	<i>from Sweden, were</i>
<i>Lyn Owen</i>	<i>guests of Helen Michelson</i>