

MARCH 1996

BATTLE OF GLORIETA PASS

Our March Program

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Lowell Thomas, the famed journalist from Victor, Colorado, was among the passengers who rode the last Midland Railroad train to Cripple Creek in January 1949. This photograph was donated to the Old Colorado City Historical Society Archives by Audralee Holland who worked many years for Merrill Shoup. This photo is greatly appreciated and will be available to researchers with other photographs in our collection that document the historic last run of the Midland. Pictured from left to right are an unknown photographer (possibly a Denver newsman), Dorothy Shoup, Mrs. Lowell Thomas, Lowell Thomas stands on the car step, Merrill Shoup and L.J. Butler, Midland Road Master, stands in the doorway. Thank you, Audralee, for thinking of us for this donation.

United States Air Force Academy history professor, Dr. Jeanne T. Heidler, will present our next program, on Friday, March 8th, 1996, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 701 North 20th Street (just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center.

Dr. Heidler will speak to us about the Battle of Glorieta Pass, New Mexico and its tremendous impact on the fortunes of the Confederate States of America. won with the aid of the many Colorado Union sympathizers who rallied to the call of New Mexico's Union officers. A Union defeat would have given the Confederacy access to western gold and silver mines and West Coast ports plus possibly added Colorado and the other western territories to the Confederacy.

Dr. Jeanne T. Heidler was born in Atlanta, Georgia. She received her Master's and Ph.D. from Auburn University where much of her research dealt with the United States Army on the frontier. In 1993, she was appointed as the first permanent civilian faculty member in the Department of History of the United States Air Force Academy. Her research has continued to concentrate on the military during the Civil War and antebellum periods. She co-authored *OLD HICKORY'S WAR: ANDREW JACKSON and the QUEST for EMPIRE*, which will be published in April and will be a selection of the History Book Club in May and June.

We are happy to present the distaff side of the Heidler family. Dr. David Stephen Heidler, history professor at the University of Southern Colorado, presented our January,

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Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

WEST WORD

VOLUME 11 MARCH 1996 NUMBER 6

PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF ALMOST EVERY MONTH BY THE
OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
OCCHS @1996

LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTICLES AND STORIES CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE
OCCHS OR MAILED TO:

PAUL IDLEMAN
1939 Gilshire Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-4227

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th DAY OF EACH MONTH.

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 West Side Colorado Springs through education of children and the community and through the eventual establishment of a History Center at One South 24th Street.

MEMBERSHIPS

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

Annual memberships classifications are as follows:

Individual.....\$10
Family.....\$15
Lifetime.....\$150

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.....630-7578
Vice President	Betty Jean Baker.....633-2350
Secretary	Shirley Kyllonen-Waller.....632-7569
Treasurer	Mary Jo Wallace.....392-3337
	Jim Ciletti.....520-0696
	Jean Christopher.....634-1803
	Ralph Conner.....634-0895
	David Hughes.....636-2040
	Paul Idleman.....633-7803
	Jan Knox.....689-2355
	Leon Young.....633-2621

MEETINGS

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

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

Please phone **Kay Arnold** at **633-2592** by the Wednesday prior to the meeting. If you find you cannot attend, be sure to cancel before 5:00 PM Wednesday or send someone in your place, as you will be charged for the reservation.

MEETING THIS MONTH

MARCH 8, 1996 - 11:00 a.m.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
701 NORTH 20th STREET
(JUST WEST OF UINTAH GARDENS)

NEXT MEETING April 12, 1995



ROLL CALL

GENERAL MEETING 2/9/1996

54 members and 21 visitors signed in

Kay Arnold
Retta Atwell
Betty Baker
Lee Beyer
Wilma Bradshaw
Jean Christopher
Sallie Clark
Barbara Cole
Ed Cole
Virginia E. Cox
Martha Curry
Bev Disch
Leland Feitz
Pat A. Fejedelem
George & Betty Fisher
Wilbur Fulker
Margaret Gould
Max Gould
Eileen Graham
Marjorie Harris
Dianne Hartshorn
Anna-Leah Hathaway
Orrin R. Haynes
Karla Hefferan
Christine Heinich
Bob Heinich
Catherine Henderson
Ann Hiskey
Andralee Holland
Peggy Johnson
Madeline Keas
Jan Knox
Elaine B. Mellott
June Mindock
Doris Morland
Mary J. Nielson
Maloa Reed
Mildred Rex
Claire Ruby

Harriet Seibel
Martha Simons
Rose Slusher
Marion Steavenson
Wilma Stephens
Thelma Stoody
Patricia Surace
B. E. Tillotson
Jean Tillotson
Shirley L. Wade
Mary Jo Wallace
Clint Waller
Shirley Waller
Mary F. Weiss
Bessie Wreath

Visitors

Carolyn Bee
Frances V. Busch
Muriel Enoch
Karen Fleming
Irma Graham
Rena Haney
Enid Kennis
JoAnn Kerr
Vicki Lane
Marcia Mensing
Karen Miller
Judy Morley
Deborah Mushler
Pat Nanninga
David Petrie
Marion Petry
Heidi Reth
Maureen Richmond
Elaine Ricketts
Mary Smith
Rita Wilhal

FUTURE PROGRAMS

April 12, 1996 — Will DeBoer, Supt., Evergreen and Fairview Cemeteries, "*Here Lies Colorado Springs — Some of the People Who Were Left Out of the Book*".

May 10, 1996—David R. Hughes, Old Colorado City Communications Company (O.C.C.H.S. charter and Board member), "*Online—the O.C.C.H.S. History Center Computer Room*".

From The President's Desk

Building Report

The wood trim in the History Center was finished this past week and the final painting is being completed. The building is beginning to look very nice inside. We can all be very proud of it.

It's been a great deal of work on the part of the President to watch all phases of the building and do all required reports, along with the required presidential duties. Your comments of appreciation are received with gratitude.

Thanks Betty Baker

I want to thank our Vice President, **Betty Baker**, for helping out during the month of February by taking the role of President. Betty has been a willing helper and is very much appreciated by all of us.

Dorothy Aldridge Book Signing

We're proud of member **Dorothy Aldridge**, who has written the book *Historic Colorado City*. To honor Dorothy there will be a book signing party on Saturday, March 30th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. **at the new History Center. Leland Feitz** is helping to sponsor this event. Thanks, Leland.

Midland Platter

Bessie Wreath has given the Historical Society a platter used in the Midland Railroad dining car. This was given in memory of **Frank Wreath**. Thank you, Bessie. More information will be forthcoming shortly about the history of the platter and these interesting people.

Election Notice

Election to the Board of the Old Colorado Historical Society will be held in May at the General Meeting. Look for the announcement on the back page of this newsletter.

Militia Organization at the Next Meeting

We should have an interesting, exciting next meeting! Several of the members of the disbanded **Colorado Territorial Militia** will be there for a short ceremony before the talk about the significant role Old Colorado City played in the Civil War, especially shortly before the Battle of Glorietta Pass. See you at the meeting!

West Side Historic Interviews

June Mindock has accepted the position of

Historic Interviewer for OCCHS. Her responsibility will be to conduct interviews and record the historical recollections and experiences of people here on the West Side. June's efforts will be appreciated!

Please update the Committee Chairpersons section (page iii) in your new Membership Directory.

by Lucille D. Cunningham

HAVE STUDENTS CHANGED IN 100 YEARS ?

(Some of the sentiments expressed in the following article, abstracted from the COLORADO CITY IRIS, March 3, 1896, are just as appropriate today as they were 100 years ago)

OUR CITY SCHOOLS

The number of new pupils in the city schools has increased nineteen since last month's report. There are now enrolled in the various grades 479 pupils. Of these, 377 attend regularly. The majority of the remainder have either gone elsewhere or have withdrawn from the schools. There seems to be a disposition on the parts of some parents to allow pupils to withdraw from the schools if the pupils happen to feel disinclined to come. At the present time, children are on the streets, when as far as I am able to see, have no business there and who have nothing to occupy their time. Children are not competent judges of what is best for them and parents who humor them in this way display a lamentable lack of judgment. The schools are absolutely free, books, supplies, tuition, everything, and all the sacrifice the parents have to make is to make the children attend.

The attention of the citizen is called to the lack of accommodation for the schools. Should the city continue to fill up during the next six months as it has during the past six months, the room to accommodate the pupils would be wholly inadequate. At the present time, the schools are crowded to their utmost capacity. We have school accommodations for only about 375 pupils. If we, with our city, are to share in the growing prosperity of the Pike's Peak region, generosity must be shown the public schools. No city can grow unless it has adequate school accommodations.

HISTORY CENTER WILL HOST ALDRIDGE BOOK SIGNING

Sprucing up the History Center at 1 South 24th Street is completed, and a new phase of planning, working and fund-raising is beginning, preparing for opening. The History Center's first use will not be as a museum, but to host a book signing.

The public will likely see the remodeled building on March 30th, when we plan a book signing by **Dorothy Aldridge**, with publication of her history of Colorado City. Publisher **Leland Feitz** is generously assisting in making it a special occasion, and visitors will find Dorothy's long-awaited book and a selection of other histories as they view the refinished interior and stained glass windows.

The exterior revitalization of the building went smoothly with local funds and a sizeable grant from the State Historical Society. But the most recent phase - the interior remodeling - faced unexpected problems.

The budget for interior work was \$80,000. Available funds from members, supporters, and Gates and Boettcher foundations left little leeway for added work, but new needs appeared regularly. A heating element cracked, requiring replacement of the dual furnaces. Plans for the restrooms, one small and one handicapped-accessible, were revised because new city codes require two full-sized facilities. It became apparent that new wall surfacing was required throughout the main display area. Ceiling insulation hadn't been included in the original plans, additional steps and framing became necessary, and the opportunity to add storage space arose. Altogether, essential changes or additions threatened to add almost \$22,000 to the interior remodeling cost.

President **Lucille Cunningham**, **Sandy Knox**, **Chuck Geiss** and **Mark Cunningham**—the Building Committee—worked diligently with architect **Michael Collins** and **Murphy Constructors** of Colorado Springs to pare costs. Refinishing the floors was postponed, the drinking fountain was eliminated but later restored, doors and construction details were revised.

The result is a building more handsome than originally conceived, with better facilities and features. The Bed and Breakfast fund-raiser, anonymous contributions, and close figuring by the contractor made it possible.

Much remains to be done. Members buying bricks will help establish the patio. Display cases must be refurbished or constructed. Paving the parking area will cost \$2,300. Shelving and storage is needed so artifacts can be arranged and made accessible, and accessioning must be resumed. Story-telling displays will require many hours of research and preparation. We need capital to supply our Book and Gift Shop. Day to day operation of the Society requires office and computer arrangements.

The expenses of the last few months leave us with few financial resources, so we are working on fund-raising plans. We have space to work and to meet and need no longer mark time waiting for reconstruction.

by Ralph Connor

**PLEASE JOIN US
FOR A VERY SPECIAL
EVENT!**

Dorothy Aldridge

will be signing copies of her new book

HISTORIC COLORADO CITY

At the first public showing of the
History Center Building

(renovation just completed)

Grand Opening of the Center's
NEW BOOK SHOP
Refreshments

THE COLORADO CITY HISTORY CENTER

1 South 24th Street
March 30, 1996
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Rita Wilhelm Gives OCCHS an Entertaining Program

Glorietta Pass Program

continues from page 1

1995 program, *Violence on the Frontier*.

Following the program, lunch will be served at \$5 per person. Reservations for lunch are due by 5:00 p.m., March 6th, 1996. Call **KAY ARNOLD**, 633-2592, if you wish a luncheon reservation. If you need to cancel your reservation, please call Kay before 5:00 PM, Wednesday, March 4th to notify her.

If you have made a reservation for lunch, we must charge you for it even if you do not attend unless you cancel the reservation with Kay in time to notify the church staff. See you there.

by Jan Knox

ATTENTION COOKIE MAKERS

We need **600** homemade or home-style cookies on March 30, for the Saturday morning reception that Leland Feitz is having in honor of Dorothy (McGlasson) Aldridge's new book on Colorado City. Punch for 300 is being planned.

Please call Kay Arnold at 633-2592 by March 28th to let her know if you can contribute.

Thank you.

From early Egyptian nobility through the 1920's Flapper era, **Rita Wilhelm's** February program was an entertaining, informative history of women's clothing, emphasizing wedding garments, particularly those of the Victorian era (1840-1900). Helping to illustrate her talk were **Jan Knox** in a white batiste 1810 Empire style with green velvet sash, **Heidi Reth** in an 1868 dark gray raw silk 2-piece with hoop skirt, **Judy Morley** in an 1872 ecru batiste and lace (worn with a bustle) and Rita in a lovely white dress from the 1890's.



Photo by Virginia Cox

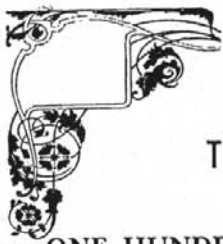
Thanks to Betty Fisher for sharing a beautiful 2-piece dress with its matching shoes, from the turn-of-the century Gibson Girl era and to **Stella Given** who brought a lovely ankle length Edwardian dress worn in 1918. Also a big thank you to **Virginia Cox** and **Jan Knox** for sharing family wedding photos.

Pictured from left to right are Rita Wilhelm, Jan Knox, Judy Morley and Heidi Reth.

West Word welcomes your correspondence, stories and photographs. You can write *West Word* in care of Paul Idleman, 1939 Giltshire Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. Please call (719)633-7803 for further information or questions.

"Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we learned something from yesterday."

- John Wayne



WEST SIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO March 1896

* Walter Humphrey, T. J. Higgs and Anthony Bott are serving the jury in the district court this week.

* A couple of Colorado Springs sports residing on N. Cascade avenue hit John Nolon's wheel for \$14,000 at Cripple Creek, Monday night.

* Charles Campbell, while working on the hill back of THE IRIS this morning, excavated the last two bones of the back-bone of a pre-historic animal. The spinal cord cavity measures 2 1/2 x 3 inches, and the bones from outside to outside are 9 x 12 inches. They are on exhibition in the window of THE IRIS office.

* Geiger & Son, of Manitou, have leased the Anheiser-Busch beer vaults and warehouse, at the corner of Washington and West First streets, and have put in a complete bottling outfit. The machinery has arrived and is being placed in position. The building has been thoroughly repaired and put in first-class shape. They will handle Anheiser-Busch beer exclusively.

* The Board of Trustees of the Town of Colorado City gave a vote of thanks to Mr. N. B. Hames for generously donating a complete set of the Encyclopedia Britannica to the Woods Library.

* Work was commenced on the Colorado City and Cripple Creek Tunnel last week. This bore will be 22 miles long and cost about \$7,000,000.

* In the case of Samuel Snoddy vs. School District No. 1, before Justice Faulkner Saturday, the plaintiff obtained a judgment for \$10 and costs. Snoddy cleaned the Bancroft cesspool and presented a bill that the board considered excessive.

* Nearly 100 Colorado City people

witnessed James O'Neill's presentation of Monte Cristo at the opera house last night.

* Three appeal suits were filed in the county court yesterday entitled the Town of Colorado City vs. Laura Bell. The defendant was fined by the police magistrate at Colorado City on three counts for selling liquor in less quantities than a gallon, and the fines amounted to over \$200. The defendant appealed the cases.

* H. B. Quimby, proprietor of the leading West Creek hotel, was in town the first of the week.

* About 50 people from this city attended Colorado City day at the Leadville Ice Palace.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO March 1921

* The Women's Study Club met at the home of Mrs Emma C. Edgar, 2223 W. Colorado avenue. The members participated in a book carnival by dressing to represent some well-known book. There were many unique and original costumes.

* Inmates of the Stratton Home, both children and the aged able to do so, helped fight a fire which raged over the Stratton farm threatening the buildings, virtually all day yesterday. It was caused by a passing steam scoop, being taken to be used in widening of the Canon City road. The smokestack was not equipped with restrainers or other preventives of sparks. The fire was extinguished in the late afternoon.

* The city park commission has placed the Bott park, south of the Midland station, at the disposal of the West Colorado Springs Commercial club, to be used during the coming tourist season as a free camping ground. The park was presented to Colorado City by the late Anthony Bott. It has had no improvements and has

seen little use since becoming part of the Colorado Springs park system after annexation.

* The first of four lectures was delivered last night at the Cheyenne school by Mrs Lloyd Shaw. She spoke on "The Beginnings of Mother Goose Rhymes."

* Mrs. Jeanette Pease, 2620 West Pikes Peak avenue, is a candidate for a two-year term on the City Council.

* Jesse H. Clevy, 57, died at his home (3/8), 3525 West Colorado avenue. Rev. Duncan Lamont will officiate with burial at Evergreen Cemetery.

FIFTY YEARS AGO March 1946

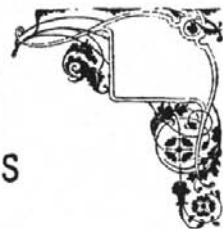
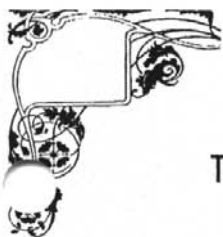
* At the request of a group of parents, an after-school indoor recreation program for boys of junior high age is being put into effect at the fire station at 29th and Colorado avenue.

* After serving 33 months in the Army, 18 of them in Europe, Harold R. Cline, 2501 W. Vermijo, has been discharged, and has returned home.

* The Whittier P.T.A. Study Group met at the home of Mrs. Kaola Clark, 2731 W. Colorado Ave. Roll call was "Short Cuts to Housecleaning". Newly-elected officers are: Mrs Willa Chasteen, President; Mrs. Mildred Rex, vice-president; and Mrs. Beulah Butler, secretary-treasurer.

* Of the over 500 regional pioneers who were born here or came in a covered wagon between 1850 and 1870, only one is reported left in the former Colorado City. He is Edward Brown, 3022 West Bijou street. Another, Mrs. Hattie Trout, a long-time resident of old Colorado City, has been at Memorial Hospital for a few years.

* Mr. and Mrs. Gus J. Michaelis have purchased the business at 2504 W. Colorado Ave., from Mr. and Mrs. Paul



WEST SIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

Shepherd. A full line of women's and children's clothing and shoes will be featured as well as the usual line of department store merchandise under the name, Michaelis' Department Store.

* Cecil T. Arthur, 45, died (3/14) at his home, 1104 West Colorado Avenue. He was an engineer in the state highway department and the son of pioneer residents, the late Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Arthur. He was the grandson of the late Henry Templeton, who built the Templeton Block and founded the First Methodist Church of Colorado City, now Trinity Methodist.

* One of the show places of Colorado City in the early days, known as the Trester home at 3001 W. Kiowa, was purchased from Mrs G. W. Shriver, by Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Macrorie, newcomers from Rock Island, Illinois. They are making extensive improvements, including painting, a new green

roof and modernizing throughout. Mr. and Mrs. Macrorie have five daughters and three sons.

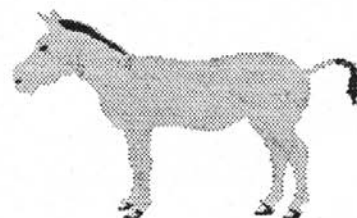
* Miss Pattie Sonnekson, 908 W. Colorado Ave., has been appointed professional instructor at the Broadmoor Ice Palace. On March 2, she and her skating partner took third place in the senior pairs event at the national figure skating championships in Chicago.

* 1,800 prisoners of war left Fort Carson for Camp Shanks, New York, on the first leg of their trip back to Germany. So far about 10,800 have been shipped from Carson, leaving some 3,900.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO March 1971

* A record high for the month of March, 81 degrees, was set Friday afternoon (3/27).

* Hambone, Ft Carson's mascot, died at the age of 38 (3/29) He was one of two mules surviving from the days when 1,800 mules were assigned to Carson artillery units. The last survivor "Trotter" is the West Point mascot. Hambone will be buried in front of the 4th Division Artillery Headquarters with other ceremonies planned later. The mule pack artillery was disbanded in December 1956. Hambone was purchased by the rodeo and was known as an outstanding jumper. He performed in many horse shows, rodeos and the annual Pikes Peak Range Riders trek around Pikes Peak.



DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS

The new 1996 Membership Directory has been published and is now available.

Directories will be on sale for \$2.00 per copy at the next General Meeting. If you are unable to attend, just fill out the coupon and mail it in.

YES!

Please send me _____ copies of the new **OCCHS Membership Directory**.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Please enclose \$2.00 per copy, and mail to:

Membership Chairman
Old Colorado City Historical Society
1 South 24th Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

TIME TO RENEW ??? PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Application

New Membership Renewal Gift from _____
 Individual (\$10) Family (\$15) Lifetime (\$150)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone(s) _____ ZIP _____

I WOULD } like a call if I don't make a lunch reservation
 I WOULD NOT

Make checks payable to: Old Colorado City Historical Society
Mail to: 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319