

WEST WORD

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1997

WESTSIDE HONORS LEON YOUNG

Twenty years ago, revitalization began on the main three block, 98 building district of Old Colorado City. In 1976, this area was 45% vacant. Total retail sales of the thirty-plus operating businesses was \$2.5 million. Now, 20 years later, the same district is 99% occupied with over 100 businesses and offices employing over 900 employees and generating more than \$20 million in sales. The revitalization project accomplished all this and retained the district's historic integrity, too. To appropriately celebrate this anniversary, Old Colorado City recognized the person whose vision and dedicated effort helped make it all possible. Friday, February 21st was designated as Leon Young Day.

OCCHS Charter Member, Board member, City Councilman and, now, Mayor of Colorado Springs, Leon Young was honored for his work to bring Old Colorado City back to prosperity and historical significance.

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SSSSSHHH.....

No, we can't keep quiet about wishing Betsy Evans a very enjoyable retirement after 18 years as librarian at the Old Colorado City Branch Library. By the way, Betsy says librarians don't "ssssshhhh" like this anymore.

See Page 9



photo
Paul Idleman

A VISIT WITH A VICTORIAN LADY

— Our March Program —

Author, historian, Judi Brandow (a.k.a. Abigail Bradshaw) will present our next program, on Friday, March 14, 1997, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 701 North 20th Street (just west of the Uintah Gardens Shopping Center.)

Are you intrigued with the Victorian Era? Do you sometimes wish you could return to that gentler time to recall a more serene pace of life? Perhaps you remember special traditions that delighted you as a child that you would like to recapture. Wouldn't you love to take a glimpse

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Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
(719)636-1225

WEST WORD

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PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF ALMOST EVERY MONTH BY THE
OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
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LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTICLES AND STORIES CAN BE DELIVERED
TO THE OCCHS HISTORY CENTER OR MAILED TO THE EDITOR:

PAUL IDLEMAN c/o OCCHS
1 South 24th Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

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. Renewal Memberships are due on the anniversary date of the initial Membership. Members receive the *West Word* newsletter, local meetings and programs.

Annual memberships classifications are as follows:

Individual	\$20	Business	\$50
Family	\$25	Corporate	\$250
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	Robert Heinich	448-9001
Vice President	Betty Jean Baker	633-2350
Secretary	Jan Knox	689-2355
Treasurer	Beverly Disch	634-5023
	Jim Ciletti	520-0696
	Christine Heinich	448-9001
	Dave Hughes	636-2040
	Paul Idleman	633-7803
	Mel McFarland	533-1311
	Jan Petite	684-9300
	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 Margaret Gould at 390-8960 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 luncheon reservation.

MEETING THIS MONTH

MARCH 14, 1996 - 11:00 a.m.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
701 N. 20th Street
(JUST WEST OF UINTAH GARDENS)

NEXT MEETING - April 11th



ROLL CALL

GENERAL MEETING 1/10/97

30 members and 8 visitors signed in

Betty Baker	Jan Knox
Ed Bathke	Sandy Knox
Nancy Bathke	Ken Kolstad
Ray Campbell	Mid Kolstad
Sally Clark	Valerie Maslowski
Barbara Cole	Doris Morland
Ed Cole	Pat Neely
Donald Colvin	Martha Simons
Virginia Cox	B. E. Tillotson
Beverley Disch	Jean Tillotson
Pat Fejedlem	
Wilber Fulker	<u>VISITORS</u>
Max Gould	Craig Bailey
Margaret Gould	Don Bailey
Karla Hefferan	Janet Bailey
Christine Heinich	Jamie Canadey
Robert Heinich	Dick Gish
Paul Idleman	Doris Gish
Joanne Karlson	Fred Gydesen
Enid Kennis	Lewis Putnam

GENERAL MEETING 2/14/97

48 members and 8 visitors signed in

Kay Arnold	Olive Langston
Betty Baker	Elinor A. Messerschmidt
Ed Bathke	Helen Michelson
Nancy Bathke	Doris Morland
Wilma Bradshaw	Patricia S. Neely
Beulah Butler	Don Paddock
Ray Campbell	Bev Patterson
Barbara Cole	Jack Patterson
Ed Cole	Maloa Read
Virginia Cox	Mildred Rex
Martha Curry	Harriet Seibel
Bev Disch	Martha Simons
Betsy Evans	Reg Simpich
John R. Evans	Marion Steavenson
George W. Fisher	Wilma Stephens
Edwina Foreman	Lois Sullivan
Wilbur Fulker	B. E. Tillotson
Liz Geiss	Jean Tillotson
Max Gould	Hazel Wright
Margaret Gould	
Eileen Graham	<u>VISITORS</u>
Catherine Henderson	Cora Simpich
Anna L. Hiskey	Marguerite Hopkins
Madeline Keas	Doris Gish
Ennid Kennis	Janet Polley
Jan Knox	Norma Zacharakis
Ken Kolstad	Doris Baab
Mid Kolstad	Gene Tarbert
Anna-Leah Hathaway	Elaine Ricketts

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Volunteers, Oh Volunteers (with apologies to Willa Cather)

The Grand Opening of the History Center is scheduled for May 17, 1997. The timing is crucial in order to capitalize on the summer tourist trade. This means maintaining regularly scheduled days and hours when we are open to the public. In order to do so, we need volunteers to staff the Center in two to three hour shifts. We will need a minimum of twenty volunteers. The duties would include receiving visitors, monitoring the exhibit area, and, on occasion, handling book sales. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with the collections of the Society and to learn more about the history of Old Colorado City. Soon you will be enthusiastically imparting pertinent information to our visitors! Please contact me (448-9001), or any other officer or committee chair, if you can volunteer to be an active participant in one of the main purposes of the Society.

The Board of Directors is exploring the possibility of hiring a **History Center Director** on a part-time basis. Many feel a Director is becoming necessary to supervise the operations of the Center, assist the Board in fund raising activities, recruit volunteers to staff the Center, and perform other duties as required by the Board. Of course, our budget and funds must allow for this

and the Board is currently reviewing all options of 'if', 'how', and 'when' we can hire a Director to manage the operation of our History Center. I'll have more to report at a later date.

The work on restoration of the choir loft is well underway. **Charlie Paterson Construction** is doing the work. Full funding of the project was assured when **Jim Rogers** donated stock to cover the \$2500 the Colorado Historical Society required us to contribute. We expect enough money left over from Jim's contribution to pay for a few other projects. OCCHS again owes Jim a big thank you for helping us out.

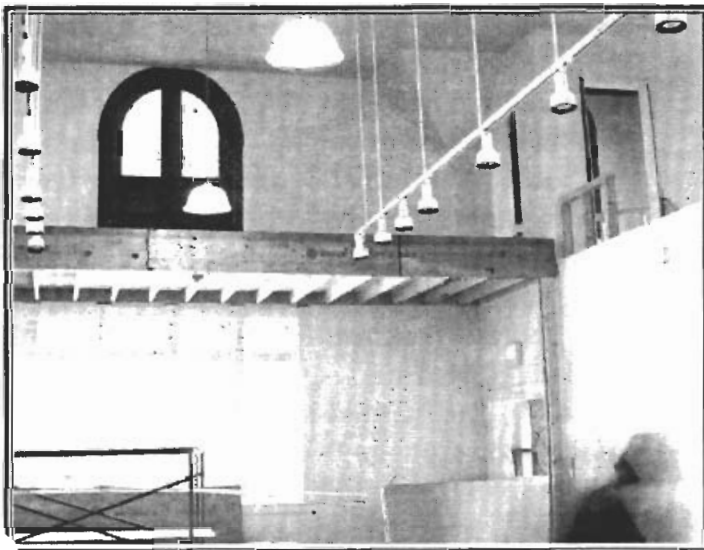
We have now sold over 50 engraved bricks at \$100 each. More are available if you would like to contribute to the Society and be recognized as a patron - or you might want to memorialize parents or other family members.

We extend our thanks to **Waste Management** for offering to pick up our trash for free. These generous gestures help out tremendously by releasing funds to support our programmatic activities.

Our History Center has a telephone now. No one is there on a regular basis yet and we still need to find an answering machine. The phone number is 636-1225.

More news about the Grand Opening of the History Center will appear in future newsletters.

by *Robert Heinich*



Work is nearly completed on the restoration of the choir loft in our History Center. These photographs, taken during the early stages of the project, show the main floor of the loft on the west wall and the new staircase leading up to the bell tower and the entrance to the loft. Long-time members of the Bethany Baptist Church have stopped by to admire the work and are amazed at the accuracy of the restoration project. The project should be done in time for our March 15th Spring Fair Craft & Bake Sale.

Photos by Paul Feldman

THANK YOU OLD COLORADO CITY BED & BREAKFAST INNS

On Sunday, December 1st, 1996, five historic area Bed & Breakfast Inns opened their doors for the second annual charity tour, netting \$2631 for the Old Colorado Historical Society. The participating inns presented the check to the Society at our General Meeting on January 10th. Appreciation for their efforts were expressed by Vice-president and B&B Chairperson **Betty Baker** and President **Robert Heinich** at this official presentation to the organization.

Many local businesses supported the fundraising effort by donating time, volunteers and resources to promote the tour. The Old Colorado City Historical Society was assisted by **Kris Kringle, Ltd., Simpich Character Dolls, La Dolce Vita Bookshop, King Soopers, Safeway** and all the Society volunteers, in addition to the **Questers** and the Old Colorado City bed and breakfast inns.

The local innkeepers took extra time to decorate early for the holiday tour. All of the inns were dressed in holiday regalia for the event, with garlands, hand-made ornaments, trees and thousands of lights. Simpich Character Dolls adorned each inn and Kris Kringle helped with the decoration of the History Center with a beautifully decorated Christmas Tree and poinsettias. A \$50 gift certificate was donated toward a bed and breakfast getaway, which was given away through a drawing conducted at the completion of the tour.

Refreshments were served at the Center. Singer and guitarist, **Phil Volan**, provided our background music. Guests viewed the museum displays, with several cases of items arranged by Dave Hughes. About three-fourths of the items were from Dave's own collection; the remainder

belongs to the Society.

Thank you to all the innkeepers: **Awareness Victorian Bed & Breakfast, Holden House —1902 Bed & Breakfast Inn, Our Hearts Inn Old Colorado City, The Painted Lady Bed & Breakfast, and Wedgewood Cottage Bed & Breakfast.**

Mark your 1997 calendars for the third annual Holiday Tour. Featured for 1997 will be the re-decorating of the present B&B Victorian Homes, plus a fifth B&B, the **Old Town Guest House**.

by Betty Baker



Photo by Paul Idema

Valarie Maslowski of the Painted Lady, Sallie Clark of the Holden House, Pat Fejedelem of Our Hearts Inn, and Karla Hefferan of the Awarenest Victorian present their check to OCCHS Vice-president, Betty Baker and President, Bob Heinich. Karen Jones of the Wedgewood Cottage was unable to attend.

We're thrilled with the response from the public and the support of the innkeepers who generously gave of their time and homes. We are very excited about continuing this tour as an annual event.

The tour raised funds for shelving in the Archive Room, which will be used for a research library. This is some of the final restoration to the interior of the center before it can be opened for use by schools and the general public as a museum.

FOR YOUR INTEREST

Committee Meets to Discuss Exhibits

On January 18th, a number of interested people met at the History Center to discuss the exhibits we would like to display in the museum. An impressive list was developed. Not all of the exhibits could be presented at one time, but could be displayed in rotation. There are a number of things to be done before many of these exhibits can be attempted. Many kinds of volunteers are needed. People are needed to complete the artifact inventory, and others will be needed to help set up the exhibits once a decision is made as to which exhibits we have material available for. We have a good supply of photographs and flat items for some of the displays, but can use more "artifacts" for all subjects. Now is a good time to think about some of these subjects. If you have things that could be used to develop some of these exhibits we could use the material and the help.

The committee will be meeting again to discuss what we can get ready for the History Center opening. Following those meetings, work will start on gathering items and organizing the exhibits. The exhibits will then be assembled for the opening.

Dave Hughes has developed an interesting display using many of the things in his collection. A few OCCHS items are included. It is an interesting preview of some of the displays we would like to develop. The museum gift shop is open on Saturdays (after the choir loft is finished), so drop in and have a look!

Contact **Mel McFarland**, chairman of the Exhibit Committee, or one of the officers for information about contributing artifacts. Please don't forget that if you don't wish to donate your artifacts, you may allow us to borrow it to photograph it, or perhaps loan it to the History Center for a specific exhibit. *by Mel McFarland*

RECENT DONATIONS

Byron Church, who once owned the building that is now the Michael Garman building next to Bancroft Park in Old Colorado City, has donated a 1908 Monroe mechanical Calculator to the Society. It was manufactured while Colorado City was still an independent town. Byron used it into the late

1950's in his real estate appraisal office in the building. We wonder if turn of the century businessmen looked at the new fangled Monroe like some old-time businessmen today look at the new fangled computers that replaced it.

Kevin Rork, Artist, has donated an old double-thickness Colorado State flag via **Kay Arnold** who has mended its frayed ends. We are not sure how old it is, but it is of slightly different design than modern Colorado flags. Perhaps someone will be able to help us date it. *by Dave Hughes*

CIRCLE MARCH 15th ON YOUR CALENDAR

Gifts for birthdays, graduations, Mother's Day, Father's Day or any special event? Stop by the History Center on Saturday, March 15, 1997, and check out the talented artisans who will be exhibiting at our **SPRING FAIR—CRAFTS & BAKE SALE**. Hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **The Old Colorado City St. Patrick's Day Parade** on Colorado Avenue, sponsored by **The Colorado City Associates** (merchants) is also on the 15th, so bring your children or grandchildren and enjoy an old fashioned St. Patrick's Day celebration—watch the Parade and stop by our Spring Fair at the History Center!

Don't forget that we always have an OCCHS Member's Table for our members to display and sell their crafts. There is never a charge for members to use this table, although we ask that someone always be there to attend to customers.

If you were not at the meeting on February 14th where a sign-up sheet to bake for the Fair was passed around, we still need more volunteers to bake. We need cookies, brownies, pies, breads, cakes, candy, etc. Call **Jan Knox** at 689-2355, if you can help out or if you plan to utilize the OCCHS Member's Table. *by Jan Knox*

Thank You, Bethany Baptist Church

Bethany Baptist Church recently gave \$200 to the Old Colorado City Historical Society; half to purchase a patio brick engraved with their name and the balance as a donation towards our choir loft restoration project. Thanks to everyone at Bethany Baptist Church for your constant support and your wishes for our continued success.

THE HOTTEST TOWN ON THE FRONT RANGE

Abstracted from the Colorado Springs Independent, October 3, 1946, by Jan Knox.

Dodge City, Kansas, Tombstone, Arizona, and many other frontier towns of the great American West are well known to have had colorful careers in their infancy through the sometimes fanciful writings of various authors. That Colorado City has not received its due share of attention is a matter for regrets.

John O'Byrne was a passenger brakeman on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad between Denver and Colorado Springs in 1889 and was a well known figure with his team of elk which he drove around the streets of the region at that time. In his **"Pikes Peak or Bust and Historical Sketches of the Wild West,"** published here in 1922, he says: "At this time (1888) Colorado City or 'Old Town' as it was called by us, was right in full bloom and that's where we went to see the sights. It made no difference what time of day or night you came to 'Old Town,' the excitement and amusement were continuous."

"Bob Ford, 'Soapy' Smith, Eat 'Em Up Jake of Dodge City, Kansas, and many other outlaws of note, who have long since cashed in their chips

and gone up to Boot Hill, were bright lights in Old Town then and if we did not see two or three gun plays or one or two shot, we considered business pretty quiet."

Some thirty-five years later, O'Byrne waxed rather poetic with the following: "Old Town isn't



John "Prairie Dog" O'Byrne with his team of pet elk, "Thunder" and "Buttons" photographed in front of the Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs about 1888 to 1891.

photograph courtesy of the Ed & Nancy Bathke Collection

what it used to be; times have made a wonderful change. When I landed in Old Town it was the hottest town on the Front Range. The Garden of the Gods and Cave of the Winds weren't in it because in Old Town there was something doing every minute. In Old Town I cut quite a dash; I took many pains to spend all my cash and I drove through the streets with Laura Bell by my side—a span of Elk, how fine we did ride.

We drove down to Byron Hames' Old Place, and says I: 'Let's go in and see what's the muss for I feel just at present like having a fuss.' We stopped at the entrance and then to the hall. Some were turning a wheel with a ball, some playing cards and more throwing dice and lots of half dollars that looked very nice. And there stood 'Soapy' Smith with three cards in his hand, and each word he uttered he spoke with command" 'Now gents,' he would say, 'there is the ace and it is plain to be seen.' And

that's where I lost all my money on the Ace and the Queen. Yes, indeed, Old Town isn't what it used to be, times have made a wonderful change and today 'Old Town' resembles an old dog with a bad case of the mange. Bob Ford, 'Soapy' Smith and Eat 'Em Up Jake have long since cashed in the chips and gone to Boot Hill and if the Devil hasn't come after them, they are lying there still."

In the life of 'Soapy' Smith as written by Collier and Westrate (also the authors of the life of Dave Cook, Pioneer G-Man, Fighting Sheriff and Frontier General of the Rockies), no mention is made of any activities of Smith in Colorado City. Nevertheless, it is felt that Old Town has in bygone days known the tramp of their feet and sharp bark of the frontier 45 of this and many other early day card sharp and desperado.

Following the expedition of Coronado and his followers into what was then called Santo Domingo in 1776, history tells us but little until the arrival of Lieut. Pike in November of 1806. However, Pike does refer to James Purcell, whom he met in Santa Fe, as being the first American trapper and prospector on Colorado soil. Purcell was closely followed by other pioneers such as Kit Carson, Andrew Henry, William Ashley, Dick Wooten and many others.

The first attempt at settlement in this immediate vicinity aside from the temporary camps of the wandering Indian tribes, which for untold years made regular visits to the springs at Manitou, was by Dick Wooten. This very interesting pioneer established his claim to the springs by constructing a log cabin there some time in the 1850s. Wooten sold his claim for \$500 to Whitsitt & Co. in 1859 and moved on.

The actual settlement of Colorado City, under the name El Dorado, took place in 1859. This first attempt was made in January, only to be abandoned a few short months later. Again in August, a company was formed for the purpose of establishing a town "at the entrance to the South park" and shortly thereafter Colorado City came into being, with printed plats showing an elaborately conceived twelve hundred and eighty-acre townsite.

A list of the members of the Colorado City company contains the following names: L. J.

Winchester, president; Lewis N. Tappan, secretary; Anthony Bott, George A. Bute, Melancthon S. Beach, Julian Smith, H. M. Fosdick, Richard Whitsitt, D. Cheever, S. W. Wagoner, Albert D. Richardson, M. P. McCarty, C. W. Pursall, A. B. Wade, George W. Putnam, John I. Price, Charles H. Blake, E. P. Stout and perhaps a half dozen others.

That winter, 1859-60, saw the erection of about a hundred log houses, this figure reaching 300 during the following summer, with choice building lots selling at \$400. The first newspaper was the "*Missouri Democrat*," a copy of which, under date of March 20, 1860, has survived the ravages of time. In this issue, a Prof. Goldrick writes as follows:

"Colorado City, Foot of Pikes Peak, El Paso County, Jefferson Territory, March 1, 1806. This is destined to be second to no other city in the great Territory of Jefferson. Good city property here I consider as valuable almost as in Denver City—Choice lots here on Broadway street are worth from \$500 to \$1,000. It is situated at the great natural opening of Yute Pass, from the plains to the parks, and all other points of the gold regions west to Utah. The new free road lately completed from this city to the Park, Blue and Snowy Range Diggings is the choicest, the finest, the most level, and the best constructed for horse, carriage or heavy wagon travel that there is in the country....."

"There are now some 240 fine, handsome looking houses erected, and hundreds more in progress and contemplation. Some very large three-story stone store-houses, and some very handsome gothic offices and dwellings are completing."

"The beautiful red rock quarries and cliffs, within a mile of the city, and also the ridges of beautiful white and brown sandstone, and limestone quarries surrounding, will afford the greatest and cheapest opportunities for putting up the finest stores and warehouses, and the handsome residences this side of Fifth Avenue, New York City....."

Yes, Prof. Goldrick was writing of Colorado City, but events of the next year or two makes one wonder if this was the origin of the term goldbrick.

OUR MARCH PROGRAM - con't from page 1

back into the life and times of a lady of that period?

Those very thoughts and feelings are what prompted Judi Brandow to delve into research of the Victorian Era a number of years ago; first, just to satisfy her own curiosity; more recently to create a business of her hobby.

In her research, she has focused most on reading antique books—books written by Victorian authors about Victorian times. She has found these to be the most helpful in understanding how people then felt about life. Some of her most fascinating reading has revolved around the seeming focus then on prioritizing the important things in life: home and family.

Judi's portrayal of "Abigail", a fictitious but, she believes, an authentic character created from her interest in the Victorian era, allows her to share her years of research in an entertaining and enlightening way. "Abigail" is an average woman of middle class Victorian America. As a result, you won't hear any of the biases we now have, from her lips, such as how hard women's lot in life was a century ago. The "judging" of the differences of a hundred years ago is left up to her audiences. Judi wears authentic reproduction costumes she has designed from fashion plates of the day and made herself. Her background in music and drama provide her with the ability to include poetry and songs of the Victorian era as well.

"Abigail" will share with us "Beauty Secrets of the 1800's" as she is getting dressed for dinner. She arrives through the time portal (the playing of a Victorian music box) in her "unmentionables." Fortunately her dressing screen and the

rest of her clothing come along with her.

Judi Brandow lives in Golden, Colorado with her husband and six sons. Known in the Denver metro area as a speaker since 1981, she has discovered that recreating the past in dramatic presentations allows her to challenge and encourage in other ways. Her portrayal of a character from the turn-of-the century and authentic reproduction costume won her the title "Columbine Sweetheart 1990" during Colorado's official celebration marking the 1899 naming of the Columbine as State Flower. Judi has also written articles for various publications including a column "Visits With a Victorian Lady" which appears in the bimonthly paper The Country Register.



Judi Brandow as 'Abigail Bradshaw'

Following the program, lunch is available for \$5.00 per person. Reservations for lunch only are due by 8:00 p.m., March 12, 1996. **PLEASE CALL MARGARET GOULD AT 390-8960 FOR LUNCH RESERVATIONS ONLY.** (NOTE: we continue to have too many members who do not make reservations for lunch, but expect to be able to eat lunch after our programs. This is causing problems for our volunteer reservations person, Margaret Gould, as well as the planning of the women of Trinity United Methodist who prepare our lunch. We are thinking of creating a permanent luncheon reservations list, if our members are interested. Please let Margaret Gould, 390-8960, or Jan Knox, 689-2355 know if you would like to be on such a list. **You would then have to call only if you will be unable to attend, or you would be charged for the lunch.**)

by Jan Knox

MEET OCCHS MEMBER BETSY EVANS

I wasn't always a librarian! But then, many lives take interesting turns along the highway.

I was born in Phoenix, Arizona. My education was public schools through the University of Arizona in Tucson. It was there I met my husband, John, but we didn't marry until six years later. During these years after college, I came to Colorado Springs with a friend to work in the business office for Mountain Bell—from 1949 to 1951—when the office was on East Kiowa, where Joe Loveless Florist is now located.



After two years, my friend and I moved back to Phoenix. I wanted to become a teacher, so it was time to work on my Master's degree in Education at Arizona State University in Tempe. I didn't dream I would ever return to Colorado. I became a Physical Education teacher in the Scottsdale, Arizona school system.

I also crossed paths with John Evans again and we married in 1953. It was soon evident that I was destined for motherhood, so I left the classroom and playing fields. John and I had two daughters and then two sons. After a few

years operating his own construction firm, John began working for national land developers, such as Del Webb and Henry Crown. Our family enjoyed the many moves necessitated by the developments being located from Houston to the Space Center in Mission Viejo, California, to Gulf Harbor in Florida.

Gold fever brought the Evans family from Florida to Colorado Springs! John had been hired by a company hoping to reclaim the gold from Gold Hill Mesa. After two years of

effort, that project was dropped and he worked with the development of Glen Eagle until his retirement.

When my children were grown, I returned to the life of a librarian. It was and still is the most interesting occupation. After 18 years, all spent with the west side branch, a change was dictated. I am looking forward to enjoying a busy, happy retirement in 1997.

(Betsy's last day of work was January 30th. We're sure her retirement includes a more active involvement in OCCHS - jek)

DON BAILEY SPURS INTEREST IN SADDLEMAKING AT OUR JANUARY PROGRAM

Don Bailey started off his program by saying that if people thought he wasn't a real cowboy because his "chaps" were too short, it was because they weren't really "chaps" but "chinks". The image he likes to portray is a cross between an Oregon buckaroo and an Arizona cowboy. Chaps are too hot to wear in Arizona and Don prefers tall boots, and with tall boots you don't need long "chaps". Don told us that tall boots are much more comfortable to ride in. He also likes to wear spurs. Don has been interested in saddles as long as he can remember. When he was still too young for school, he always headed for the barn to "snoop" when he went to meetings with his mother. He

still has his first saddle, a Fred Mueller (made in Denver) saddle that his dad brought home when he was eight. It cost ten dollars. It's part of the thirty saddles that are on exhibition in the box car section of the museum in Limon.

Both horses and saddles have evolved down through history. In early times, people rode without saddles, including Alexander the Great on his famous horse, Bucephas. Some people did use stirrups, without a saddle, and as saddles developed the stirrup was a very important part as their use gave people better balance, plus freed their hands for whatever instrument of warfare they were using.

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WEST SIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

ONE HUNDRED & THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO — March 1862

* FROM NEW MEXICO—A soldier from Fort Garland rode express here last night, brining dispatches from the authorities of New Mexico. It is thought there was a request for more of our volunteers, in addition to Col. Slough's command, to take up their march for Fort Union direct across the Raton Mountains. There are said to have been two or three sharp fights of late, in New Mexico. Some say that the First Regiment is making quick time to New Mexico, and others aver that they have not more than crossed the Arkansas, *en route* for Fort Union via the Raton Mountains. The snow was too deep on the Sangre Christo route, for them to wade through, had they not received advices to take the other road. It is said that Capt. Ford's Canon City Company behaved bravely in the late engagement below Santa Fe.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO February/March 1897

* Residents of this city will do well to heed the orders of the Board of Health concerning cleansing their premises. The ordinance concerning nuisances will be rigidly enforced.

* H. B. Quinby has a force of men at work converting his livery barn into a business house. He will put in a glass front and otherwise improve the appearance of the building.

* Twenty-one pounds of granulated sugar for \$1 at The Spot Cash Grocery.

* The town of Colorado City is in the market for 500 shade trees, want either ash, poplar, maple, etc. Send particulars of what you have got and prices to John Morgan, Town Clerk, Colorado City, Colorado.

* Librarian of the Wood's library reported that 308 books circulated

during the month; that 972 persons visited the library; that 13 cards were issued and that cash to the amount of \$11.44 cents had been received.

* Young Mr. Bryant of the Midland boiler shops, is visiting Glass Town quite frequently of late. Your correspondent has endeavored to locate the house of his prospective and if the snow remains on the ground long enough we hope to succeed.

* Glass Town boasts of many religious denominations. She has her Free Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Seven Day Advents and Sunday horse shoe pitchers. The latter are mostly in evidence. What we need now is a few Mormons or Latter Day Saints.

* The case of the Town vs. H. B. Quinby wherein Quinby was charged with doing scavenger work without a license, was tried in police court Wednesday morning. From the evidence it appeared that Quinby had bought the garbage he had been moving and was using it for his own use and benefit. Defendant was discharged.

* An enterprising sneak thief got in his work at the Hoffman club last night, by stealing the wheel from the "wheel of fortune" machine and removing the greenbacks from beneath the glass in a dexterous and neat manner. One hundred and sixty-two dollars in crisp bills were secured.

* I. V. Ferris, proprietor of the O. K. Barber shop has put one of Elder T. J. Head's famous electric appliances in his bath rooms and is very enthusiastic over the results. Mr. Ferris has invited The Iris man to come over and take a bath, an invitation he would be in no hurry to take advantage of in winter, but with the invitations is a guarantee to knock the rheumatism out of his knee, and for that reason he will probably accept. It is said the "bath" has

cured several cases of rheumatism, some of long standing.

* The display given by the Colorado City firemen, calling attention to the Hard Times Ball given by Colorado City Hose No. 1, at Miller hall, Tuesday evening, was all right. The boys went through all the antics of a green, backwoods fire department, and pleased the crowd so well that everybody who danced was on hand at the ball. About 4 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, the people about town were startled by the ringing of the fire bell at the town hall and in less time than it takes to tell it the avenues were filled with excited people looking for the fire. While the excitement was yet high, Fire Marshal Clark, mounted on a dilapidated cart, drawn by a sorry looking, bobtailed nag, came dashing down the street. He was dressed in an old soldier overcoat, on his head was an old straw hat from the crown of which protruded a big wisp of hay, while from his breast dangled a big badge cut from a gunny sack on which was painted the word "chief." Behind the chief came the hook and ladder wagon drawn by Hamel's black ponies. On the wagon were banners announcing the "Hard Times Ball at Miller hall, tickets 50 cents, proceeds for the benefit of the poor." Behind the wagon was trailed the hose cart around which ran a group of firemen, most of whom out shone Bill Hoey, the famous "Old Hoss" who could make any tramp jealous with envy. But it was the youths who make up the Hathaway Hose company who "took the cake." They were all got up tough and their fire fighting appliances were piled in a rickety old wagon, such as is shown in the "Dark Town" pictures. To the wagon was hitched a nondescript sorrel horse and a gray burro that looked as though it had been disappointed in love. Arthur Yancy, the ebony hued sprinter of the Hathaway's, done the driving act, while three or four ragamuffins stood up behind and did the whipping. It was great fun for the boys and for the crowd on the walks. After searching up and

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

down the street for the fire several minutes, the firemen returned to the town hall. At the ball in the evening everybody had a good time and plenty of it. No "good clothes" were allowed on the floor, and the "get ups" were ridiculous in the extreme. Messrs. Falk and Reid furnished the music. At 12 o'clock supper was served at the restaurants after which dancing was resumed. The proceeds which will be disposed of as stated above were considerable.

* Last Friday evening Superintendent Palmer, assisted by the Misses Templeton, entertained the Board of Education, teachers and a few friends at the home of Mr. Henry Templeton. A short literary and musical program was rendered, the remainder of the evening being spent in social intercourse. After refreshments were served the guests departed having spent a pleasant evening.

* The town attorney reported that the Laura McDaniels cases had been dismissed. Also that the case of the Town vs. Quinby had been tried in the district court but had not as yet been decided. This is the case wherein H. B. Quinby seeks to gain possession of the old town hall.

* The proposition to allow a salary of \$200 per year to the mayor of Colorado City and \$4 to the town trustees for each regular or semi-monthly meeting attended, should be unanimously adopted by our people at the approaching election. It is not right to ask the town fathers to give their time and talent without any remuneration. Colorado City will pay her public servants for labor honestly performed.

* Miss Florence Williams will on Monday of next week open her hair dressing and manicuring parlors in rooms 1 and 2 over Mrs. Sawyers millinery establishment. Miss Williams is well known to the ladies of this city having lived here since girlhood and attended our schools. She has served an extended apprenticeship with Mrs. Eddinger and Miss McIntyre of Colorado Springs and is mistress of her art.

* The young ladies of Glass Town have set the pace for summer styles for 1897. It has been duly announced that they have adopted crinoline and it is to be worn on all occasions. The announcement was received with unfavorable comment from some of the young men who seem to be in the push, and one young man especially, who has laid great thought on the subject, was overheard in his dreams, when he gave vent to the following:

*'Gainst crinoline I raise my voice,
For woe it is to me.
No more the maiden of my choice,
Can sit upon my knee.*

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

February/March 1922

* The Buena Vista Parent-Teacher association met on Wednesday afternoon and enjoyed a program by the grade school orchestra, conducted by Mr. Fred Fink. This was followed by a stereopticon demonstration, as the association is considering the purchase of one for the school. Mrs. Coffin, the principal, gave a report of the results of the weighing and health work for the past term, and announced that a nutrition class will be conducted at the school by Dr. J. F. McConnell. Milk feeding will also be begun this term. Mrs. Henry Schmidt gave an interesting account of school housing conditions.

* Approximately 75 club members and citizens of the West Side attended the meeting which was held at the West Side Community club rooms. The lamentable situation facing the school board and the problem of handling the, steadily increasing numbers in the already crowded quarters in every school in the district, was presented to the residents in a forceful manner. The citizens were left to solve the situation for themselves after the matter had been squarely brought to their attention and the comparative ability of the taxpayers shown to relieve the conditions.

* With a large crowd watching the work, the paving crew of the Colorado Springs and Interurban Railway company completed laying asphalt on Cascade

avenue at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The avenue is now ready for traffic for its entire length. There will be no more paving work of any kind attempted until next spring. At that time the concrete gang will start operations on West Colorado avenue, which already has been graded for most of its entire length.

* Ethel Barrymore, the famous actress, who is to appear at the Burns theater tonight in Zoe Atkins' remarkable play, "Declassée" arrived at the Broadmoor hotel yesterday, and spent the day resting. So great has been the interest shown that every seat is sold for the performance.

To one woman at least, the coming of Ethel Barrymore meant a few moments of cheer and happiness, a link between the past and present. Yesterday the noted actress called on an old friend, Mrs. Havlin Orr, of 3421 West Pikes Peak avenue and visited with her for a time. Mrs. Orr, a sculptress, is here for her health, having formerly been a resident of New York city and a friend of the entire Barrymore family. Mrs. Orr was unable to attend the performance of "Declassée".

* Four range cattle, having wandered down the mountain side and on the right-of-way of the Colorado Midland road, were killed in tunnel No. 4, early last night on the return trip of the passenger train from Cripple Creek. Winding about the dark tunnel in which it is impossible to see more than a few feet ahead, the engine struck the cattle about midway through the bore. Four of the animals were either killed outright or had to be put to death by the train officials. The fifth cow hobbled away somewhat the worse for bruises and scratches. As a result some cattlemen is short four young heifers and the train was late nearly a half hour.

* Thomas C. Jones, an ash hauler living at 1715 West Vermijo avenue, may die today from injuries received at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon when he was struck by a cottonwood tree, being

con't on next page

felled by a crew for the city forestry department. Jones was driving his auto truck north on Cascade avenue, and did not see the signal to stop. The tree fell on the cab and buried him in the wreckage. Dr. West says Jones weighs 230 pounds and is in the best of health or he would have been killed instantly. He has six broken ribs and four spinal vertebrae are crushed. Dr. Welsh fears pneumonia may develop.

* Within the next few days Green Mountain Falls, Cascade and Ute Pass points will be connected by telephone through purchase of the old government line from the forest service, and extending from Cascade to Green Mountain Falls, by H. B. Kiem of that city. Mr. Kiem has already strung telephone poles across the mesa and up the Catamount Creek canon where a number of residents have expressed themselves as anxious to get on a telephone system. Arrangements have been made with Hal A. Brown at Brown's store, for installation of a switchboard and exchange connections can be made with the Mountain States Telephone system to take care of long distance calls.

* About 800 acres on the north slope of Pikes Peak was reforested with Englemann spruce and Douglas fir in 1921. That region was devastated by fire 60 years ago, early settlers claim, and nothing but scrub growth has ever come in. This is a portion of the Colorado Springs watershed and residents of this city are particularly interested in the project because forested hillsides mean purer water and more of it, at the time of year when most needed.

* The new Westside drainage district, created by the city council following the introduction of the subject by Councilman Martin Drake, will extend from Eight street on the east to Twentieth street on the west and from Boulder street on the north to Cucharras street on the south. The entire cost of the project is estimated at \$74,000. On Colorado avenue, storm sewers six by three feet in size will

accommodate the waters coming down from the higher land on the north. Work will start on the Colorado avenue section first to permit the street to settle before the new paving is laid there this summer.

* Herbert E. Webb has purchased the eight-room Jacob Becker house and property on Manitou boulevard. Mr. Webb plans to tear down the house, constructing in its place a \$6,000 stucco bungalow, together with a "Honey House," for roadside marketing. Mr. Webb, is secretary of the El Paso County Bee Keepers association, and is determined to see that a boom in the honey industry occurs in the near future.

* Mrs. Alice Hook de la Vergne, 50, widow of the late Edward de la Vergne, died last night (3/21) at a local hospital. After the death of her husband, Mrs. De la Vergne, became associated with the local Y.W.C.A., taking charge of the dining room for girls and business women. She was also night secretary and cashier, and had made many friends through her personality, a happy and cheerful aide to girls away from home. Mrs. de la Vergne's father, W. E. Hook, was one of the early pioneers of this region. She had lived here for 35 years. She is survived by a nephew, Theodore Middle.

* A coroner's jury returned a verdict of negligence on the part of workmen employed by the city in their failure to give sufficient warning while felling a cottonwood tree on Cascade avenue in the fatal injury of Thomas C. Jones, an ash hauler.

* Stonewall park, at Adams crossing, will be the home of the latest cottage city in the Pikes Peak region, according to an announcement by I. M. Johnson, proprietor and general manager of the project, who already has 39 cottages virtually completed. Automobile tourists from Nebraska and Missouri already have begun arriving here. The new cottage city will consist of 50 cottages built of pine slabs, and will include all modern conveniences in the way of electric

lights, gas and water. Ample accommodations will be provided for motorists and a free camping ground will also be available. The cottages will be of the one and two-room types. The entire cost of the project being about \$10,000.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

December 1946/January 1947

* A blustery wind reaching 50-60 miles an hour made its mark in the region Monday night. The most extensive damage was done at the El Pomar Carriage House and Museum in Broadmoor, where the wind ripped about one fourth of the 18-gauge copper roof from the structure, rolling the torn-off section into a ball.

* Judging by traffic, including army trucks, the Glen Cove ski course is in full swing. Of course, there is plenty of snow, and the state highway department plowed the summit road out to the Cove recently, where lunches are now served. For the next three months, the course will have lots of traffic. There will be thrills and spills and fun galore.

* Frank Kovarik, old-time oil and gas deliveryman on the West Side for perhaps 30 years, gets downtown occasionally. He is past 70 years and his health is not good. Starting in the old horse and buggy days, Frank took care of his regular customers until selling out a few years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Kovarik lived at 1702 West Kiowa St. for a great many years, and now reside at 1809 North Tejon St.

* A very special musical program has been prepared for the Midland P.T.A. meeting to be held February 20. Mrs. Carter and her girl sextet will present several accordion numbers. Bobby Walters will assist in the program. Mrs. Russell, county P.T.A. president, will speak on Founders Day.

* The Whittier Study Group will meet February 21 at the home of Mrs. H. H. Hadley, 2924 West Platte Ave. Mrs. Kay Slocum will be assisting hostess. Mrs. C.

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

H. Babcock will give a book review on "African Journey" by Eslanda Robson.

* Mrs. Mary Alice Nelson, 88, of 1524 West Pikes Peak Ave., passed away Friday. She had been a pioneer resident of Colorado Springs since 1909, and was the widow of George W. Nelson. She was a member of the Church of the Brethren, and is survived by six sons, three daughters, 21 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

* There is no better view of Pikes Peak in the region than on the hill between Twenty-first and Twenty-sixth streets on Pikes Peak avenue, and many motorists enjoy sitting in their cars and viewing the mountains from north of the peak to south of Cheyenne mountain. Home folks enjoy the view as well as visitors. Making the Pikes Peak avenue hill road passable was one of the so-called labor relief moves common in early days of the New Deal. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent here-about in so-called relief, which held some, but the snatchers fared best. Before grading was done on the Pikes Peak avenue hill, the road was little more than a foot path, before which it was a deer path.

* Maybe Old Town cannot get along without a Cullett barber. However, it did for about a year, following nearly 40 years of it. Charlie and his son, Louis, each have a shop on the West Side at present.

* G. W. Brock of the Grand View Market, 3302 West Colorado avenue, has just added some additional modern equipment. One is a frozen food case and the other a fresh vegetable case.

* As usual, the state highway department kept the snow off West Colorado avenue, west of 3015 to the Manitou Springs corporate limits, one block west of Adams Crossing, the roadway being in El Paso county.

* Echoes of the Memorial day flood of 1935 were heard here Saturday when Police Chief I. B. Bruce received a let-

ter from Sheriff Earl Dunlop at Pueblo informing him that a skull had been found on a sand bar in Monument creek 300 feet from the Pinon, Colorado, bridge. It was the opinion of the police department that silver filling in the teeth might serve to identify the skull as being that of one of the victims of the flood which struck Colorado Springs with such force on May 30, 1935. Four people were drowned in the rush of waters but only two bodies were later recovered.

* The Whittier P.T.A. at its regular meeting will be entertained by Girl Scout Troop 28. A play will be presented under the leadership of Mrs. Floyd Conkey. Scouts participating are: Helen Armstrong, Lucy Ann Conkey, Betty Huth, Betty Henderson, Phyllis Law, Lavenea Banta, Beverly Jamison, Patty Jo Gallivan, Ruth Widmoyer, Patty Ruby, Shirley Frandsen, Ann Cambridge, Crystal Zentz, Joy Hudson, Dorothy Bishop, Shirley Wiggins, Jennine Diebold, and Jewel Lytle. Troop mothers for Troop 28 are: Mrs. Kenneth Widmoyer, Mrs. George Gallivan, and Mrs. Elmer Huth.

* The Independent of March 2, 1923, contains a membership list of 56 members of the West Side Commercial club. Of the total, 15 are still in business here, as follows: W. A. Bailey, H. D. Brooks, George Cross, C.C. Cullett, C. C. Hill, R. J. Livingston, H. D. Lockwood, George B. McDonald, W. F. Marker, J. H. Nelson, D. A. Nichols, P. P. Scott, Dr. D. H. Winternitz, Elliott Williams, W. D. White. Those here, not in business, are J. C. McCreary and Frank Priess.

* Dr. and Mrs. D. A. Winternitz, of 2212 West Colorado Ave., have returned from a several weeks trip through the South. They drove to New Orleans and to Florida and from there went to Cuba.

* W. L. Brewer, 2909 West Pikes Peak Ave., passed away Saturday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Berna Roberts. He had been a resident of the West

Side for the past 18 years. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Annie E. Brewer, and daughters, Mrs. Alpha Milligan, Miss Gladys Brewer and Mrs. Roberts, all of Colorado Springs and a daughter, Mrs. Pearl Hudson of Woodville, Miss.

* Excerpts from "H. M. S. Pinafore" will be given at the next regular Midland School P.T.A. The cast of characters includes: Harold Lynn, Charline Ragula, Paulina Finck, Allen Mathias, Herald Walton, Rene Gentry, Jack Ross, and Don Teason. The play was given in February by the same cast at the Colorado Springs High school.

* The Rev. C. W. McAninch has resigned from the pastorate of Bethany Baptist church because of ill health. Since he came here two years ago from North Platte, Nebr., 150 new members have been added to the church rolls and plans for a new building have been well started.

* Colorado Springs new radio station, KRDO, is now on the air. They held their formal opening ceremonies at 8:30 Tuesday night (3/20) broadcasting from the Colorado Springs High School auditorium. Joe Rohrer, former chief engineer of station KOA in Denver, is now the station manager for KRDO. He stated that the policy of KRDO will be to give Colorado Springs the best in radio entertainment using the latest type high fidelity transmitting apparatus developed by RCA. The station has been heard as far away as Minneapolis, Minn. and San Jose, Calif. The staff of KRDO claim this to be excellent results with only 250 watts of power and attribute these results to Mr. Rohrer's ability as a radio technician.

* John Hobbs, who has been a policeman over a quarter century, started on the job back on April 1, 1922, in Old Town. Coming here in 1904, he was for some time an employee of the Colorado Midland railroad. John never hobnobbed with the bad elements, but he did play hob with their movements. He is now a city detective.

THE STORY OF SIMPICH DOLLS

The largest number of members and visitors in recent months listened with interest at our February program as Cora Simpich filled in the background of the Simpich family as well as the story behind the start of the Simpich Character Dolls business by her in-laws, Jan and Bob Simpich.

Since it was Valentine's Day, Cora also entertained us with the story about how two young people from the Westside, she and Reg Simpich, who could have met years sooner than they did, kept passing like "ships in the night." She and Reg and their family live in the Robert Finley house, considered to be one of the oldest if not the oldest house still standing of those built in the earliest days of Colorado City. We learned the details of how some of the many unique dolls were added to the inventory, who some of the faces are modeled after, and the fact

that a number of the steps in making a doll is a cottage industry. There are



people all around town who do the work in their homes. An additional bonus to her program was having Reg Simpich in his Union army uniform play his guitar and singing for us accompanied not only by Cora's voice but her playing her "bass" fiddle made from a galvanized wash tub, a cut-off broom handle and a piece of cotton clothes line! Cora brought several of the Simpich dolls to show us and also decorated the tables in the dining room using Simpich elves for center pieces. We were invited to stop by the shop and watch the production steps that are done in the back any time - the best times of day to go are 10-12 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. I've always wanted to go into the Simpich shop with an unlimited check book and say, "I'll take one of those and one of those....etc." and I'm sure many of our members share my sentiments.
by Jan Knox

THE HISTORY CENTER BOOK STORE

S & H is the shipping and handling cost. Please add 3% tax if you are a Colorado resident. Any overage sent due to ordering more than one book will be refunded or donated to the Fund if you so direct. Make your checks payable to O.C.C.H.S. and send your order to:

O.C.C.H.S., Attn: BOOK STORE, One S. 24th St., Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319.

1997 Calendars by Todd Caudle. We're two months into the year so we've cut the price in half. Wonderful photographs!

Historic Colorado - \$6.00 each
Pikes Peak Country - \$6.00 each

Kind Nature's Scenery To Portray - the life and work of William E. Hook. 29 minute video documentary (VHS only) written and produced by OCCHS member Paul Idleman for the Pikes Peak Library District. The story of this prolific 19th Century "viewist" is documented with Hook's own photographs. *Video Librarian Magazine* rated this excellent production with a 4-Star, Editor's Choice saying it's "a must for all libraries."
19.95 each s&h 3.00 **TOTAL \$22.95**

Historic Colorado City—The Town With a Future by Dorothy Aldridge. Excellent writing and more than 25 rare

b&w photographs trace the history of Colorado City from 1859 as a gateway to the mining regions to its recent revival and emergence as Colorado Springs' most historically interesting, colorful and lively area, 80 pp. 5 . 9 5 each s&h \$3.00 **TOTAL \$8.95**

Unique map of Old Colorado City Historic District by artist Jack Ekstrom 11" x 15".
.75 each s&h .50 **TOTAL \$1.25**

Historic Old Colorado City by David R. Hughes. Includes Ekstrom map. A short history of Colorado City from its beginnings through the Colorado Avenue revitalization efforts..12 pp.
2.50 each s&h .100 **TOTAL \$3.50**

Saddle Strings by Don Bailey. Of all the gear a cowboy used, the saddle was the most valuable and Colorado was the saddle capital of the world for

60 years. This chronicle of Colorado saddle makers fills the void left by their omission in the history, 200pp
20.00 each s&h 4.00 **TOTAL \$24.00**

A History of the Colorado Springs Schools District 11 by Harriet Seibel. From Colorado City's District 1 to the present, an informative history with many historic b&w photographs.107 pp.
3.50 each s&h 2.00 **TOTAL \$5.50**

COG RAILWAY CENTENNIAL PRINT with 1891 photograph by William E. Hook of Cog at the Halfway House.
8.00 each s&h 3.00 **TOTAL \$11.00**

Man in the Garden of the Gods by Richard and Mary Ann Gehling. A short history of the Garden from the Indians to the new Visitor's Center with many historic b&w photos plus color photos of the rock formations, 30pp.
3.95 each s&h 1.00 **TOTAL \$4.95**

LEON YOUNG DAY - con't from page 1

Leon, who has served as City Councilman for 24 years, voted for the Revitalization Project in 1976 and he has continued to vote in support of Old Colorado City for 20 years. He supported the 1977 controversial funding of the project which, through the Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority of the non-profit Old Colorado City Development Company, provided SBA loan guarantees for small businesses to buy and renovate buildings in district. This was one of the first programs in the country aimed directly at assisting small, rather than large, business get started. When some of the architect/planners of the project were favoring a more 'modernistic' look to the town, Leon always place his support behind maintaining the historical theme. He supported and voted for the funds to renovate Bancroft Park, even though it was not part of the Block Grant Project.

Pornography shops had begun to

infiltrate Old Town's struggling commercial district in the 1970's and Leon Young was instrumental in helping to pass the 'Adult Bookstore Zoning Ordinance' which eliminated the problem. He supported the controversial bid to have stop lights placed at Bancroft Park and later at 27th Street. Also, somewhat controversial was the bid to make Old Colorado City a national historic district. Leon always supported the bid before staff and council.

When the Urban Renewal Authority was found to be mismanaging the project, Leon almost single-handedly led the City Council fight to dissolve it and return management to Community Development. He met repeatedly with the Federal EDA to successfully get funds for the district's infrastructure, such as heavy utilities and parking lots. He supported the creation of the novel Westside Neighborhood Housing Project

which utilized some of the same techniques of public-private partnership to redevelop the residential homes of Old Colorado City.

When all of the City Council was invited to march in the parade at our first Territory Days celebration in 1976, Leon was the only one to show up and proudly march. He's attended every event invited to in the twenty years since. As mentioned, Leon is a Charter Member of our Society and a valued member of our Board. When construction on our History Center was complete, Leon grabbed the broom and shovel to help clean everything up.

This is only a partial list of what Leon has done for Old Colorado City. This quiet, unassuming gentleman is actually a ball of fire. Old Colorado City and the Old Colorado Historical Society will always hold Leon Young in the highest esteem. Thank you, Leon.

by Paul Idleman & Dave Hughes

DON BAILEY - con't from page 9

The saddles Don brought to illustrate his informative and humorous talk ranged from children's saddles stamped with Mickey Mouse and Roy Rogers, early cowboy's saddles that almost look like a child's since the men in those days weren't very tall, about five feet—their saddles weighed about twenty pounds compared to the nearly fifty of a modern saddle—tiny saddles that were probably used as salesmen's demonstrators, and a saddle made by R. T. Frazier, probably the premier saddle maker in the world when Pueblo, Colorado, was the saddlemaking capitol of the world. (Their glory days lasted more than seventy years, though there were saddles still being made in Pueblo in the 1950's.) R. T. Frazier was the first saddle maker to send out a catalog and do a large mail order business. Most of the larger saddlemaking towns, such as Omaha, Kansas City and Denver also had tanneries and saddle tree makers.

One of the oldest saddles in Don's collection dates from the 1860's. He

acquires them through auctions and shows, but also has family and friends who scout flea markets and yard sales



photo by Paul Idleman

for him too. He now has about 240, but assured us that his family doesn't go hungry to pay for his hobby! In addition to both teaching in Limon, Don, and his wife, Janet and their two

sons, live on a working cattle ranch, one mile north of Simla on U. S. 24. The ranch house is a large red brick and the outbuildings are painted red. Don says you can't miss the signs that say "Bailey's Ranch!" They have turned a large building on their property into a "museum", with lots of saddles, chaps and other items, an old freight wagon, a homestead shack and a saddle maker's shop. They welcome visitors. Also, if you want to "help" with the cattle in the summer or just feel like going for a trail ride, give them a call. Their phone number is 719-741-2736. Don and Janet are also active in the Limon Historical Society. We are all invited to attend Limon's Western Weekend complete with lots of horses in the parade on June 14th and their Heritage Days the first weekend in August.

(When the weather gets warmer, call Jan at 689-2355, if you would be interested in car pooling to the ranch and on to Limon to see their museum.)

by Jan Knox

SPECIAL ISSUE-FEBRUARY 1997

THE STORY OF THE DOLLS

O.C.C.H.S. member, Cora Simpich, daughter-in-law of Bob and Jan Simpich, creators of the Simpich character dolls, will present our next program on Friday, February 14, 1997, at 11:00 a.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 701 North 20th Street (just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center.) She will explain the history and display some of the many dolls produced by this unique business.

Cora was born in Colorado Springs, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Polley. Her family lived for a time in the old Standard Mill building, at 530 S. 30th. She remembers playing in a large brick cone-shaped structure inside one of the buildings. Cora attended Whittier grade school as well as some of the other schools as they moved around the west side. She also attended Colorado College. Her father first came to Colorado as a "hobo" riding a train, sometime during the early 1930's as he wanted to climb Pikes Peak. He ended up in Denver that time, but finally made it to Colorado Springs after he married Cora's mother in 1938. James Polley hauled coal and wood, was a carpenter, trucker and even a gold prospector. Cora remembers him telling her that the Cliff House in Manitou took 20 tons of coal per winter! Cora and her husband, Ragan, have been married twenty-three years. They have three children--Polly, 17; Joe, 14; and Jody, 10. She and her husband are actively involved in the business started in 1952 by Jan and Bob Simpich.

Jan and Bob moved to Colorado Springs from Missouri as newly-weds. With

a limited budget for Christmas presents, they were forced to improvise. Relying on their artistic capabilities, they created their first dolls--a set of carolers and a family of peasants--as presents for their parents. In their wildest dreams, they never imagined doing more dolls. Fortunately, things do not always turn out the way we think they will. Their creations met with such enthusiasm, that they found themselves overwhelmed with requests. Over a period of time, the Simpich Character Dolls was born as a business.

Following the program, lunch is available for \$5.00 per person. Reservations for lunch are due by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 12, 1997. Call Margaret Gould, 390-8960, for lunch reservations only.

NOTE: Paul Idleman's computer developed a serious "illness", so we're using this to notify you regarding our next program, etc. The February-March issue of WESTWORD will be combined. *Jan Knox*



SWEET BETSY (13 1/2") AND IKE (14 1/2")
Limited edition of 1200 pieces each.

"Do you remember Sweet Betsy from Pike, who crossed the wide prairie with her lover Ike?" Betsy (in assorted prints) and Ike make a great spot of folksy memorabilia for your home.