

APRIL 1999

# CITY HALL IS A BIT BERSERK ON FIRST DAY OF APRIL

Maybe it's the heat. Folks around the City Hall went slightly berserk on this first day of April. James J. Murray, street department superintendent, said no major street repairs would be made this year. "Construction costs are too high," he said, "and besides we have petitions from every garage in town to let things fiddle along for another year. This spring, garages have made more money on broken springs than in any spring in history. We should interfere with private enterprise by fixing the streets? Don't be silly!"

S.H. Close, soft-spoken vice president of the police department, secretary of the police department and clerk of the Police court, said he had been thinking things over, "No, I won't vote for a *"Republican"*. Why the Democrats and their New Dealers have done more for this country than can ever be done to it again in a hundred years," he quoted as people fainted right and left. "Tax cuts? Why cut 'em? I believe it is a patriotic duty to pour all the money we can get our fists on into Washington. We owe it to ourselves to give the boys in Washington all the money they want; got to keep 'em happy, you know."

Mayor McCullough was also in form. In a short, 8,000-word statement, he said the location where crews have been working for several weeks to create a baseball field would be shifted. The diamond will be moved to the park on the west side of the Antlers' hotel. "It's a lot smaller," shouted the

mayor, "but it's within walking and crawling distance from the business district. Besides we have decided to plant the whole blooming Prospect Lake area in daffodils. Recreation? We don't need exercise; we need more flowers."

Police Chief I.B. Bruce fumed and fussed, said that the whole blasted idea of parking, and traffic regulations in the business district was ridiculous. "Parking meters? Tear 'em out by the roots. Double parking? Sure, park all over the place. That's why we have wide streets. Signal lights? They're only for decoration. Run the lights if you so wish. Makes good sport. Anyone bagging a pedestrian is asked to drag the remains over to one side of the street."

City Manager C.H. Hoper didn't have much to say, "Busy? Certainly not, I'm spending 45 minutes a day on city business and the rest of the daylight hours working in my garden. I'm going to ask the Council to cut my hours down to 30 minutes a day on the job."

City Councilmen Jasper Ackerman, Dr. Beryl Ritchey, Merton M. Robbins, Mrs. Ruth Banning Lewis, Harry Blunt, Earl Bates, George Dern and Martin Drake also chirped up. They said: "Yappity, yappity. Let's put \$2,000,000 in the hospital. Let's put \$3,500 in the hospital. Let's re-zone for Piggly Wiggly. Let's zone nothing. Let's annex Bonnyville to Monument. Let's put Bonforte on the Council. Let's cut the budget. What budget? Let's recall Mosley. What? Utilities oughta kick in more dough. Utilities oughta be free. Let's hire a contractor to dig their ditches. Let's have no ditches, lay the pipes on top on the ground. Where's my hat? Where's my purse? Get off that map. Who dropped the knife? Hey, Henry, give us some city law. We are the law. Where's my petition? Where's my hat? Where's my purse? Let's adjourn."

Now just a minute. The first paragraph of this thing said this is the "first day of April." And you know what day this is. And the city editor said that somebody's leg had to be pulled — clear out of the socket — so here is... A.F. to you, too.

*(abstracted by Jan Knox from the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph — April 1, 1948.)*

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# Old Colorado City Historical Society

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

## WEST WORD

VOLUME 14 APRIL 1999 NUMBER 2

PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF ALMOST EVERY MONTH BY THE  
OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION  
OCCHS @1999

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, discounts, local meetings and programs.

Annual memberships classifications are as follows:

Individual .....	\$20	Business .....	\$50
Family .....	\$25	Corporate .....	\$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	Robert Heinich .....	448-9001
Vice President	Dave Hughes .....	636-2040
Secretary	Betsy Evans .....	635-4782
Treasurer	Don Kallaus .....	630-0322
	Beverley Disch .....	634-5023
	Jack Ekstrom.....	473-7515
	Gordon Gray .....	630-8238
	Jerry Jekel.....	380-7010
	Agnes Johnson .....	633-8040
	Mel McFarland.....	533-1311
	Jim Travis .....	636-1576

### MEETINGS

OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is held at 11:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, except during June, July and August. The History Center opens at 10:00 a.m. on the day of each Monthly Meeting & Program for refreshments and visitation. The program will begin at 11:00 a.m.. The OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is free and open to the public

### Next Month's General Meeting & Program

May 14, 1999  
at the History Center

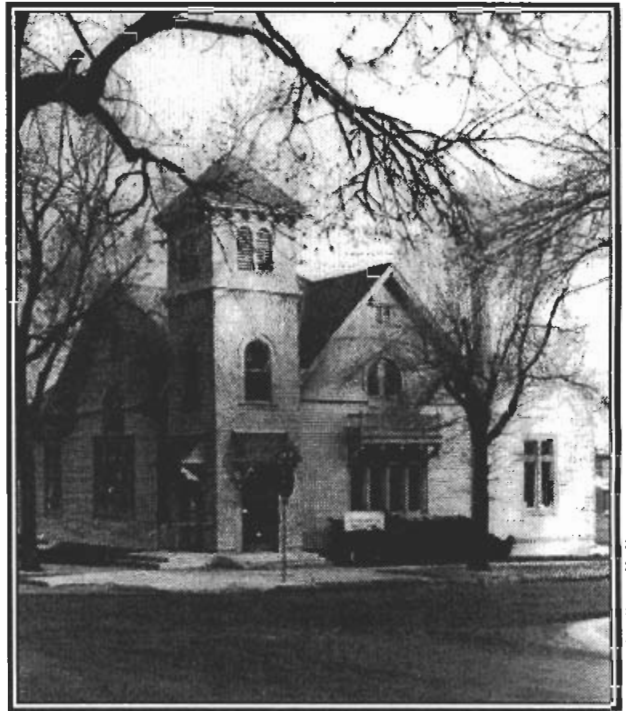


photo by Don Kallaus

Explore the REAL History!

at the

## OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORY CENTER

1 South 24th Street

(the corner of Pikes Peak & 24th Street)

(719)636-1225

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#### Winter Hours

11:00 a.m. TO 4:00 p.m.

CLOSED MONDAYS

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OCCHS web site is co-sponsored by The National Science Foundation

# REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Old Colorado City History Center continues to grow as we approach our 2nd Anniversary. The Society had acquired thousands of historical items before we opened the History Center doors on May 17th, 1997. Since then we've received many more donations of photographs, documents and artifacts important to the documentation of Colorado City and the Pikes Peak region history.

We've had over 8500 visitors to the History Center in our two years. Many of those visitors have left cash donations in our drop box and made purchases in our Book & Gift Shop. We continuously receive many researchers seeking and finding the information they're looking for in our Research Library. We should take pride in our accomplishments with the History Center. We have initiated all of the programs we planned for in our Master Plan. Our History Center offers something for every varied interest. Most importantly, we have successfully reached that dreaded two year anniversary — that arbitrary time frame many use to measure whether an entity will continue or fail.

We still have a lot to do. Our programs and activities are growing and our need for volunteers has never been greater. Now that Scott Wright has completed the construction of our data base, we will begin to schedule volunteers for the massive task of entering our collections into the computer. We need more volunteers to help with the accessioning of our collections. Our exhibits need to change more often to interest the growing number of visitors to the History Center. Currently, we have no exhibit committee other than our Director.

Our fundraising needs to grow, too. Many of our fundraising efforts, especially the Fairview Cemetery Crawl, are showing real potential to keep our funds flowing. We also need more people on our Grants Committee to keep on top of the various grant opportunities out here and to make a timely and effective applications.

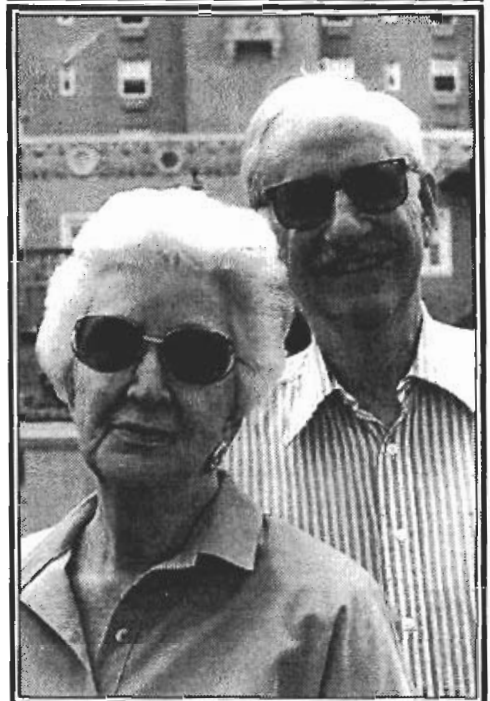
We are extremely grateful for the

grant we've recently been awarded from the Edmondson Foundation. With the assistance of this funding, we now have our general expenses such as utilities, phone, insurance, security system, etc., covered through the Spring of 2000. We have recently had to endure some major repairs to one of our furnaces and our 100-amp electrical system that may change these figures somewhat.

Our membership is still our backbone for financial budgeting. We currently have over 270 memberships in the society, with many of those being family memberships. We still have difficulty with memberships being renewed on time, but we lose very few members and gain new ones every month. Most of us just forget about our renewal dates, but its importance to our budget projections can not be over emphasized. We are beginning a new policy of sending out invoices to our members on their anniversary date as reminders. Jim Travis is keeping our membership list up and will handle the renewal reminder mailings. Betty Baker handles mailing out our membership cards to renewing members.

A big thank you to Don Kallaus and Sandy Knox for all they have done to get our Jim Bates Darkroom put together and operational. Don managed to wrangle some used restaurant sinks for our darkroom and work room in the History Center basement. Sandy spent several weekends installing the sinks and the plumbing for us. Our Jim Bates Darkroom will be a major asset to the History Center. Not only can we now prepare all our photographs for exhibit in-house, but have additional funding capabilities with the sales of photographic copies of our collections to interested researchers and production teams. We will offer to the public copies of most of photographs. Prices for the photos are \$15 for a 5X7, \$20 for an 8X10 and \$35 for 11X14's. We are able to enlarge up to 30X40 to meet any need. We owe thanks to Don, Sandy, Chuck Cobb, Gene Dienst, Bob Heinich and, especially Jim Bates, for our darkroom.

## OCCHS Member Ivan Brunk



Ann & Ivan Brunk at the Broadmoor.

Ivan W. Brunk is a retired meteorologist and journalist from the Chicago area. He has researched and published articles on such diverse subjects as: severe weather, Great Lake levels, genealogy, church history and Colorado history. He edited *Dear Alice* (1978); was co-author of *The Progeny of Christopher Brunk* (1981); compiled and published *Jacob's Ladder* (1982); and edited and published *From Bethlehem to Calvary* (1984). From 1978 to 1996, Ivan spent his summers in Colorado Springs. In 1987, he researched and wrote *Pike's Peak Pioneers* (now in its fourth printing), the definitive account of the homesteaders on America's mountain. In 1989 Ivan wrote and published *Shattered Dreams on Pikes Peak* about the history of the Jones Park and Seven Lakes area on the mountain. In 1990, he wrote and published *Crystal Park — The gem of Pikes Peak*.

Ivan's energy and enthusiasm for research amazed us all. Ivan and Ann gave up their summers in Colorado Springs to live year-round in Sarasota, Florida to help care for Ann's sister who, according to Ivan, will live "to see three different centuries". We miss you, Ivan.

# Candidates for May Board Election

Our annual May election to the Board of Directors will be held at our Monthly Meeting and Program on May 14th at the History Center. Serving on this year's Nomination Committee were Agnes Johnson, LaRue Ebersole and Ray Campbell. They have submitted the nominations of the members profiled here to run as candidates for the Old Colorado City Historical Society Board of Directors.

There are five positions to be filled for a two-year term. Remaining on Board to complete the last year of their two-year term are Robert Heinich, Beverley Disch, Jack Ekstrom, Gordon Gray, Agnes Johnson and Mel McFarland.

Election votes will only be accepted at the May 14th General Meeting and Program from OCCHS members with dues in good standing. Membership dues may be paid up to the time of voting to bring them current. Nominations of other interested candidates will be accepted from the floor before the election. The History Center opens at 10:00 a.m. on May 14th for refreshments and visitation. Our meeting and election will begin at 11:00 a.m. After the voting, we will present the May program. Our guest speaker hasn't been confirmed yet, but Jan Knox assures us that it will be someone from the Florissant Fossil Beds in celebration of that historical site's anniversary.

Our thanks to Agnes, Ray and LaRue for working on this year's nominations.

## **Don Ellis**

Don Ellis was born and raised in Colorado Springs. In 1944 his parents bought a piece of land on the Gold Camp Road (which then was still called the Corley Road) and built their home there. Don attended Midland School, West Junior, and Colorado Springs High School graduating in 1958. He received a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Colorado in 1962, studied metallurgy at the University of Denver for a year, and completed his graduate studies in Bioengineering at the University of Michigan. After a postdoctoral fellowship, he held several research engineer and research associate positions at the University of Michigan and the University of Colorado. In 1987, Don left his university work to devote full time to his business, Spiderwort Design. His business activities have included design consulting, prototyping and light manufacturing. In 1989, Don and four other engineers founded Molecular Analytical Instruments, Inc. Don served as executive vice president of this company until the corporation was dissolved after selling its mass spectrometer technology to another company.

Hiking and climbing are Don's favorite recreational activities. He first climbed Pikes Peak in 1954, was one of the first two Scout guests of the AdAmAn Club, and has made over 125 climbs of 14,000 foot peaks.

After living in Boulder for 22 years, Don and his wife, Merle, moved to Colorado Springs in 1998. Don has been a Lifetime Member of the Old Colorado City Historical Society since 1995.

## **David Hughes**

Dave is profiled in the story on the next page.

## **Leo Janzen**

Leo M. Janzen and his wife, Sharen, own and operate the new Spurs 'n' Lace Bed & Breakfast Inn in Old Colorado City. Leo was born in Hillsboro, Kansas and grew up on a cattle farm in Marion County, three miles from the little town of Lehigh. Leo's family can be traced back to Holland when they migrated to Poland, Switzerland and southern Russia. In the 1800's, his family came to America and settled in Kansas, bringing with them the Turkey Red Wheat which began the Kansas wheat state.

He was educated in a one room school house with a horse as his transportation for the first seven years. After high school and four years at a small church college in North Newton, Kansas, Leo went on to earn a Masters in Administration from Eastern Washington State College in Cheney, Washington.

Leo's life has been colorful and diverse. In 1958 he went to Washington state's Columbia Basin — the last frontier — to homestead and develop a beautiful little irrigation farm which he worked for ten years. He has driven a gas truck, worked feedlots, taught school, sold and managed livestock corporations and grain elevators, property invested, and now, is running a beautiful bed and breakfast inn.

Leo says, "All of my life I have worked from early to late, never taking the time to do community work. Now I have received a call asking if I would consider working on the board of the History Center. I am in awe and consider this a great honor." He says he would enjoy working with the those trying to save our rich heritage.

## **Don Kallaus**

Don Kallaus was born and raised in Kansas on a small farming community on the Colorado border. During his high school years in the 1960's, he spent his summers working for Bill Carle on the summit of Pikes Peak serving tourists those famous donuts. He lived in the dorms on the summit and came down from the mountain once a week. It was then that his love for Colorado Springs grew. He settled in Colorado Springs after college and bought his first home on West Kiowa Street in 1967.

Don commenced his career as a barber, working for Les Wilkinson on West Colorado Avenue. He started his own hair design studio, Hombre Hair Design, in the late 1970's. He sold his business in 1984 and began a financial career with A.G. Edwards & Sons in downtown Colorado Springs.

Don retired from financial investing in 1998 and began to spend the kind of time he had always wanted to spend with his passion of photography. Cowboy musicians and bluegrassers are among the subjects Don photographs. He has photographed cowboy great Don Edwards for several CD releases, in addition to Norman Blake.

Don has served as Treasurer for the OCCHS Board of

# COLORADO SPRINGS HONORS DAVE HUGHES

*story & photo by Paul Idleman*

Some say that Old Colorado City still exists by sheer luck. It's true that Colorado City began lucky as a very successful mining supply town and almost died two years later when its luck ran out. It is true that Colorado City was selected as the Capital of the new territory. It was to be named for its capital, the Territory of Colorado. The territory's borders were extended to place the new capital more at the center. As bad luck would have it, Colorado City lost the capital to the more politically savvy Denver. Colorado City even had the bad luck to lose its name and status as a town when it was annexed to its snobbish neighbor, Colorado Springs, in 1917. Even as late as the mid-1970's Old Colorado City's luck appeared to be running out when urban renewal threatened to level the Old Town business district.

It is no accident that Old Colorado City had the good fortune to survive. Its 140-year history is rich with the spirit and character of its citizens. "Old Town" was always the working man's side of town. Its personality and influences came from its founders and settlers, merchants and saloonkeepers, ministers and gamblers, mill workers and social clubs, colorful characters, rogues and, yes, even inexorable gadflies.

Colorado Springs recently honored one of those colorful rogues, retired Colonel David R. Hughes, on January 14th with a plaque unveiling ceremony to dedicate the "Dave Hughes Cyberpath". Hughes was honored for his contributions to the

*con't on page 11*



*Colorado Springs Mayor Maryl Lou Makepeace and Vice Mayor Leon Young join Dave on the Dave Hughes Cyberpath. The plaque mounted on the wall of the dedicated walkway reads:*

## **DAVE HUGHES CYBERPATH**

**THIS WALKWAY HAS BEEN NAMED BY THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS IN HONOR OF DAVE HUGHES, HISTORIAN, VISIONARY, ACTIVIST AND INEXORABLE GADFLY, WHOSE LOVE OF THE PAST, APPRECIATION OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND UNDERSTANDING OF URBAN REDEVELOPMENT HAS HELPED TO PRESERVE THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF OLD COLORADO CITY FOR THE CURRENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION.**

**DAVE@OLDCOLO.COM**

**DECEMBER 1998**

## **Candidates for May Board Election** - con't from previous page

Directors for the past two years. He has also been instrumental in developing and operating the History Center's darkroom. Don has printed most of the photographs on display in our exhibit room.

Don writes, "My affiliation with Old Colorado City History Center has been extremely enjoyable. Our History Center is on its way to becoming a tremendous community resource. I am very amazed at the many accomplishments, the results of many dedicated people. I am quite proud to have served since its opening and am looking forward to witnessing the many upcoming programs coming online and seeing the potential unfold."

### **Jim Travis**

James N. Travis was born October 1944 in Clarinda, Iowa and grew up on a farm helping the family with the crops and cattle. He graduated from the local high school in 1963.

He attended the University of Missouri and graduated within 6 hours of a double major with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in history. Jim graduated

the University of Missouri law school in 1971 with a Juris Doctorate. He has practiced law in Colorado since 1971 with an emphasis on civil matters including elder law, wills and trusts, probate and small business.

Jim's interests include primarily all aspects of fly fishing, including fly tying, rod building, and fishing in both fresh and salt water. He has taught fishing, fly tying and has been a guide. Jim also does Northern Plains Indian bead work.

Jim has an ongoing interest in the history of the West, its culture and values. He is particularly interested in Rocky Mountain history from Lewis and Clark to the Battle of the Little Big Horn and read a great deal on the subject, including many prime sources.

Jim joined the Old Colorado City Historical Society Board of Directors in 1998 at the invitation of the Board to fill a vacant seat. He is helping maintain our membership roster and working on commercial memberships and trust funds for the society. Jim and his wife Brenda live in the Cheyenne Canon area with their two boys, Justin and Hunter.

# RAMONA

## The Black Sheep of El Paso County

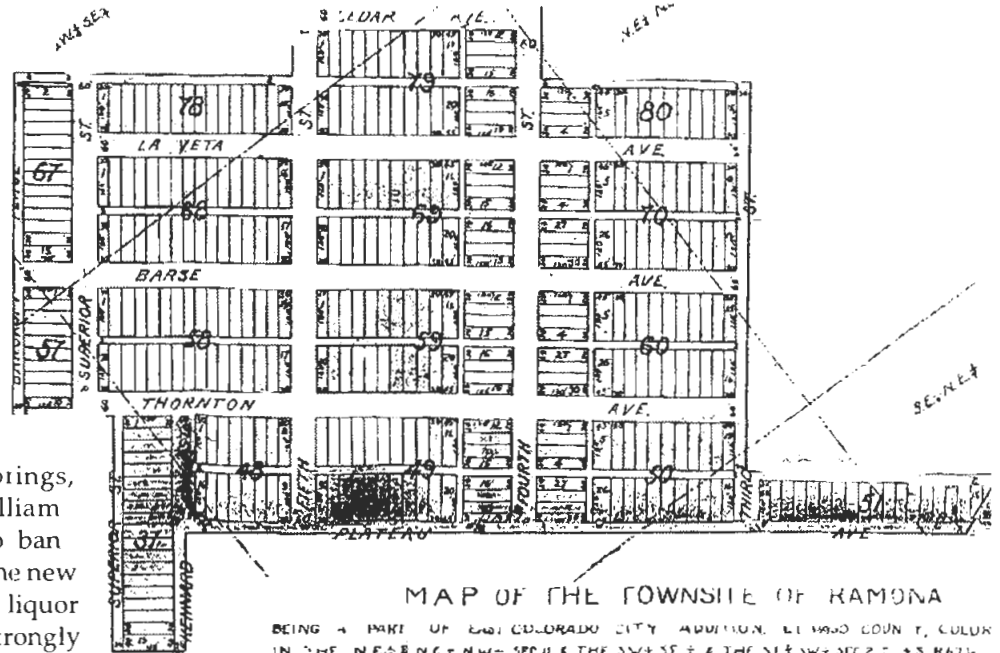
by Jan MacKell

Upon founding Colorado Springs, Queen, the wife of General William Palmer, encouraged her husband to ban liquor, saloons and dance halls from the new town. Palmer obliged Queen, and liquor laws within the city limits were strongly upheld. Those citizens of sporting nature in turn transferred their idea of fun to Colorado City, conveniently close but out of Palmer's reach.

For many years, Colorado City upheld its right to drink and sin — an arrangement that worked well for those who wished to live in the Springs but still have a nip and a dance with a pretty girl. By 1906, however, the decent folks of Colorado City had decided that "Old Town" had had its fun. A surge of do-gooders popped up, closing the saloons and sweeping Colorado City clean of its soiled doves.

The sinners and boozers were not to be outdone. They managed to migrate slowly north of Colorado City, where just beyond the city limits they could once again partake in their usual habits. Saloon keepers gathered and bought \$20,000 worth of land from Frank Wolff along 4th Street (24th Street today), a few blocks north of Colorado Avenue. They called the new city "Ramona", after Helen Hunt Jackson's romantic character from the book of the same name. The town lay somewhat in the vicinity of Thorndale Park, located on Uintah Street.

The citizens of Colorado City were instantly enraged! The *Colorado City Iris* had something to say in the May 23, 1913 issue: "There is no secret that the purpose of the starting of the new town is to have a town given over wholly to the perpetuation of the liquor traffic and all its attendant evils, in the Pike's Peak region." The Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Anti-Saloon Club called an immediate joint session to discuss alleviating the foreseen problems. The result was a committee, consisting of A.W. Clark, Percy Dunn, F.W. Kistler, and Mrs. A.K.



MAP OF THE TOWNSITE OF RAMONA

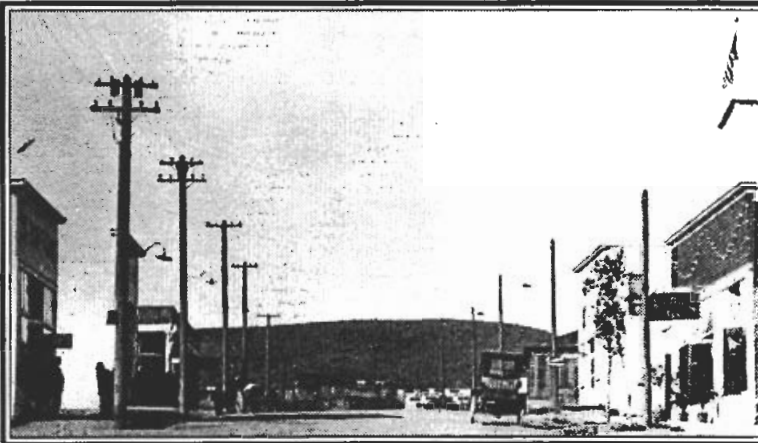
BEING A PART OF EAST COLORADO CITY ADDITION, EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO IN THE NE 1/4 & NW 1/4 SEC 18 THE SW 1/4 SEC 2 & THE SW 1/4 SEC 2 T. 43. R. 61 W. A PLAT OF EAST COLORADO CITY ADDITION HAVING BEEN FILED FOR RECORD HEREIN IN BOOK A PAGE 137 RECORDS OF EL PASO COUNTY

Shantz. The committee's first and foremost goal was to circulate a written petition. The *Colorado City Iris* lost no time in publishing the petition, which read in part:

"Whereas, the city of Colorado City, after struggling with saloons for forty years, has recently by a vote of her people banished the saloons and wholesale liquor dealers from her midst, a feat accomplished only after a long struggle... Whereas, there is a movement on foot by certain liquor dealers to establish and incorporate a town on our very border, for the sole purpose of selling liquors with all the accompanying evils that those words mean..."

Few in Ramona listened to the accusations. On July 17, 1913, the incorporation papers were filed for Ramona, and one night in November of that year the annex opened its doors "in a blaze of glory." Robert McReynolds was named City Clerk, City Treasurer and Police Magistrate at \$24 per month. L.C. Moats was hired as Chief of Police, City Marshall, City Detective and Jailer. His salary was \$65 per month. Despite these official titles, the first jail was really only a small tent. It matched the rest of the town.

Allegedly, patrons to the new town were entering the annex via Fourth Street. This was the first cause of major concern, since respectable citizens lived on that street and were no doubt unhappy with the nightly proceedings. Indeed, it was not long before complaints, like Ramona, ran amuck. As a counter attack in general, the city council at Colorado City firmly upheld the decision in their petition not



Ramona in 1914. Looking north up 4th Street (now 24th Street) with the Heidelberg Inn on the right. The trolley line was about 4 blocks south on Colorado Avenue; a short stagger for those heading home after spending some time in Ramona.

McKnight Collection - OCCHS Archives

The Incorporation Seal for the Town of Ramona is now part of our archives thanks to the generosity of Catherine Henderson. The town seal and the other Red Light District items Catherine has donated to OCCHS were from the collection of her husband, Bill Henderson



and moved in case of trouble. Sheriff Birdsall of Colorado City and his deputies were somewhat at a loss with the crazy proceedings.

Colorado City was not pleased with the law's slow reactions, especially at the fights one night when the sheriff and seven deputies were held by spectators while a small riot broke out.

"The sheriff and the District Attorney know or should know that liquor is being sold to minors and women, that bawdy houses have been run there right along," the *Colorado City Independent* reported in disgust. "Drunks by the dozen swarm down here (to Colorado City) and... nine tenths of it comes from Ramona."

This time, to show some backbone, officers of Colorado City raided the red light district in Ramona and apprehended a number of women. Arrests were made and fines were assessed. Another raid was made a year later. Sheriff Birdsall accompanied a few of his deputies on a robbery complaint this time. A man named Dayton from Illinois alleged he'd been robbed of approximately \$400 in Ramona. While investigating the robbery, Sheriff Birdsall arrested one George F. Zeigler for running a gambling hall. The \$400 mysteriously reappeared almost instantly, but Zeigler was taken to jail on \$2,000 bond. Accompanying him were Josie Parker, Bill English, Lon Parker and prostitute Eula Hames, "alleged frequenters of resorts of this kind."

Three months after the raid, Ramona's saloons closed their doors as quickly as they had swung them open. Pressure from Colorado City and Prohibition in 1916 hastened their demise. Although the main source of Ramona's livelihood was lost, the town somehow managed to hang on for a number of years. In 1922, a \$25 tax on bachelors was proposed to boost the economy. The town treasury contained \$100 and police protection, among other necessities, was lacking.

Finally in 1947 Ramona voted to revert to El Paso County's jurisdiction. Old Colorado City welcomed the downfall of the town with open arms, and professed a desire to renovate and reintroduce the beautiful assets of the area, which included building Thorndale Park. In accordance, Ramona was molded into just another neighborhood on the Westside in the 1950's. Today, no storefronts or evidence of evil doing can be seen, but the Ramona annex remains an historic and picturesque area.

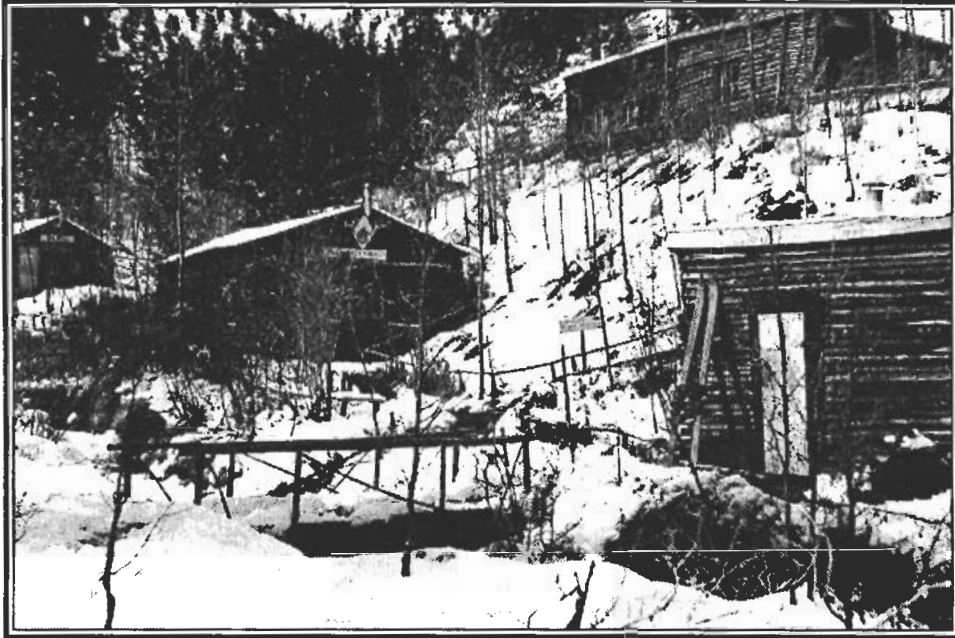
to supply water to the new town. As of January 1913, city employees had been instructed not to supply water to anyone running a saloon, even though Ramona had only boasted two at the time. The *Colorado Springs Gazette* highly condoned the decision, commenting that Ramona had "turned out to be just what was predicted before the first shack was built—a degraded, besotted little sinkhole..."

A month later, saloon partners Henry Abbey, Harold C. Thompson and Marion Nickel filed suit for their rights to water. The judge ruled against them, saying Colorado Springs was under no obligation to supply water outside the city limits. Still, "Whiskeytown" was not to be outdone. Colorado Springs fire hydrants were mysteriously tapped at night and water piped through a fire hose to a Ramona water tank. Finally, although the decision not to supply water was clearly stated in the resolutions of the petition, it was revoked when a man named Jordan challenged his right to water for a grocery store and barber shop he was building in Ramona.

The *Colorado City Iris* voiced its discontent at the city's failure to follow through. A few days after Ramona's debut, the paper published a sarcastic editorial about the water decision and ruckus on Fourth Street. This article was followed by a comment in the *Gazette* which read, "The press reports of the opening of Ramona were deficient in that they failed to specify the number of drunks manufactured in the new town, or tell of the noise, confusion and presence of women on that occasion." The accusation was emphasized by the arrest of Mayor George Geiger in March of 1914 for allowing liquor to be sold to a 16-year old girl at his saloon, The Heidelberg (in spite of his crime, Geiger was re-elected as Mayor of Ramona in April).

By October of 1914, Ramona was still going strong. Not only were dance halls and saloons in booming business, but prize fights were taking place as well. Tents were being used for many of the festivities in lieu of buildings — probably because they could be taken down in a hurry

# NELSON'S CA



*story & photos by Ira Current*

Frank Nelson was born in Denmark about 1857 and came to Cripple Creek, Colorado to prospect for gold before establishing his camp near the north end of Cheyenne Cañon, at the foot of Mount Almagre, in 1906. This became his year around home. He had prospected for gold at the camp, but the results of assays of specimens never showed any appreciable amount of the metal. However, rumors of his gold possession may have played a part in the event of his life beginning March 8, 1929.

On a snowy Sunday the 10th Frank Nelson was found in a semi-comatose condition in his unheated cabin by a party of Colorado College students on a skiing party. By Tuesday, a group of faculty and students from Cheyenne School faced the six to seven foot drifts that made the trail up North Cheyenne Cañon almost impossible to rescue Nelson. On verge of collapse they brought him to Crestone Heights sanatorium where he remained for a week. After additional rest at the Clinton Hotel, he returned to his camp.

The disheveled condition of his cabin, the end of his calendar markings on the 8th, supported his story that he had been attacked by two men intent on robbing him of gold.

Eight months after this event, Howard Goff, George Burnham, Leonard Cohoon and I would walk up North Cheyenne Cañon to spend two nights at one of Nelson's cabins. Frank gave no outward indication of his experience and gave a warm welcome. He maintained three cabins for visi-

tors in addition to the one that was his own home. He had a "dig" called "The Black Diamond" where he searched for the presence of something valuable. We liked to make our camping there when snow was on the ground.

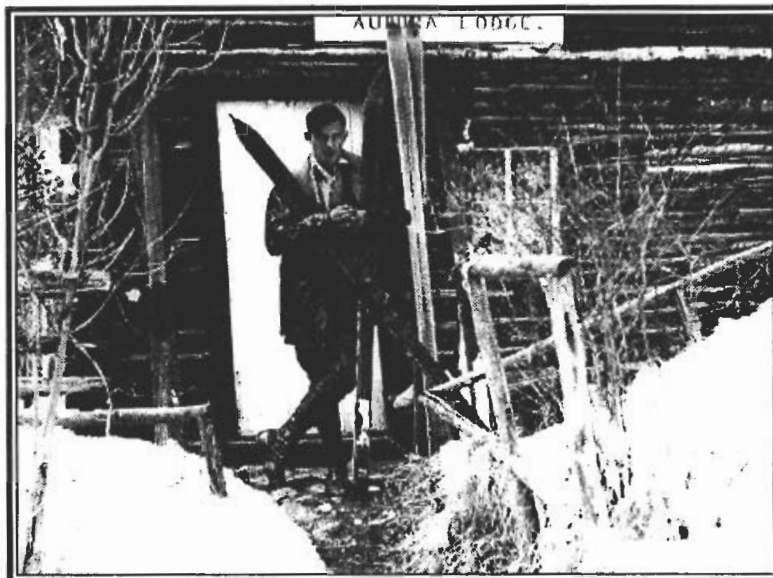
Our movie forward\* for the late November trip read, "Winter comes early and remains long in the Mt. Almagre region, eight miles from Colorado Springs in the Rocky Mountains. Few are the people who brave the snows to enter upon this fairyland surrounded by peaks, but those who do so are fittingly rewarded. The camera has caught a party of such." On one occasion, later near the end of winter, our daytime excursion from camp led us to the summit of Almagre's Baldy where we assessed the amount of snow on the water shed. This was dutifully reported by the *Gazette Telegraph*.

The trail up the canyon was moderately steep and followed the creek past Helen Hunt and Silver Cascade Falls. It led across bridges made of a couple of trees dropped across the stream that were fitted with steps like those of a ladder to create a deck. Our back packs were light, since Nelson provided bedding for the bunks in his cabins. We didn't have to forage for wood, since there was always more than an adequate supply.

After a good night's sleep in our preferred cabin, "The Acacia", our host would suggest the day's outing; enough to keep us busy so we could rest well the second night. Our



# CAMP



## CURRENT FAMILY TO BE HONORED AS THIS YEAR'S "FIRST FAMILY OF COLORADO CITY"

The family of Park and Anna Current will be honored as this year's OCCIS "First Family of Colorado City" at our Annual Membership Banquet to be held on August 13th, 1999. All of the surviving children of Park and Anna Current — Ira, Richard, Maloa, Irma, Grace and Gene — are planning to attend.



(photos beginning far left on previous page) Nelson's Camp in 1930 showing the Aurora Lodge left center. (right photo on previous page) Frank Nelson poses for Ira in 1930. (top photo) Ira Current in front of the Aurora Lodge at Nelson's Camp, 1930, prepares for some cross country skiing. (below) Howard Goff tosses a snowball to George Burnham at the entrance to Frank Nelson's "Black Diamond" mine, 1929. (bottom photo) Howard Goff and George Burnham throw more snowballs at the photographer at Nelson's Camp, 1929.

midday stop would require a fire in the snow somewhere with which to cook the noon meal. The evening meal, and that for the morning breakfast was cooked with the wood stove that also kept the cabin cozy.

There was a ski trail of sorts leading downhill from the camp, alongside the rise above the creek. We were joined by "Cogan" and "Rohrer" in testing our "slats". There was a jump near the end of this mountain trail, but not many of us were able to stay upright after our flight. The effort was popular however, and most visitors were usually at it some time during their stay.

Nelson lived at his camp for about two years after our adventures with him, and died at the Myron Stratton Home in September of 1944.

Some of the above information was provided by Ivan W. Brunk in his book, *Shattered Dreams on Pikes Peak*.

\* The movie Ira refers to is his "Two Days at Nelson's Camp" which is periodically broadcast on The Library Channel. The Library Channel for the Pikes Peak Library District can be found on Channel 17 for Century Communications subscribers. Ira began filming the Pikes Peak region in the late 1920's with his 16mm movie camera. The History Center presents many of Ira's films on the Library Channel.



# FOR YOUR INTEREST

## FAREWELL ORRIN HAYNES

We were saddened to hear of the death of OCCHS member Orrin Haynes in February. Orrin was a civil engineer with the city of Colorado Springs and a long time member of the Old Colorado City Historical Society. In 1994, he was chosen as Chairman of the Architecture Committee and he worked on the original plans to construct our History Center's patio.

Orrin was born March 20, 1920 in Quincy, Illinois. His wife, Marjorie, preceded him in death.

We will miss Orrin and offer our deepest sympathy to his sister, Mildred, and his four sons, Gary, Orrin, Mark and Bruce.

## VICTORIAN BALL AT MIRAMONT CASTLE

A Victorian Ball will be held at Miramont Castle on May 1, 1999. The event will begin at 8:00 p.m. and last until midnight. Victorian evening wear is requested. Tickets are \$20 per person in advance. Limited reservations will be taken. For information and reservations, call Lee Michels at 632-7548.

Can't dance? Dance lessons are available on April 23rd and other possible dates for \$5 per person. Lee can give you more information about this, too.

## LINCOLN FORUM RE-NAMES ANNUAL AWARD FOR SCHOLAR RICHARD CURRENT

The Lincoln Forum officially re-named its annual award of achievement for the dean of Abraham Lincoln scholars, historian Richard Nelson Current. Announcement of the new "Richard N. Current Award of Achievement" was made at a banquet ceremony at the annual Lincoln Forum Symposium at Gettysburg, where this year's

award was presented to the man often referred to as "the historian of the century," John Hope Franklin.

The plaque in his honor saluted Current as a founder of the organization and the great Lincoln authority of our time, promising that his name will "forever be inscribed on the annual awards of achievement of the organization he helped create." This year's ceremony was broadcast on the C-SPAN network.

## OCCHS MEMBER JIM ESSENPREIS

Jim Essenpreis never got to see the History Center. He and his wife Joan joined OCCHS just to receive the *West Word* for the interesting history and to keep up with their nephew, Paul Idleman. Always curious about things, Jim instilled his desire for knowledge and curiosity into his two daughters, Barbara and Pat, and his nephews, nieces and grandchildren. His love and example is evident in all who loved him.

Jim graduated top in his class from the University of Illinois in ceramic

engineering after World War II and began his long career with Frigidaire in Kettering, Ohio. Before Jim finished working on color for baked ceramics, all appliances came with only one choice of color — white. He retired to Cherokee Village, Arkansas many years ago to enjoy his days on the golf course and to build and repair golf clubs for fellow golfers in that community.

Jim died a few days before Christmas 1998. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Dr. Patricia Essenpreis, who was instrumental in the research and development of Fort Battle, the ancient mound-building Indian settlement in southeastern Ohio.

Without his influence, the passions of all the kids who grew in his presence would have been lessened.

## DONATIONS NEEDED FOR SPRING TREASURE SALE

Our Annual Spring Treasure Sale will be held in the History Center parking lot on Saturday, May 22nd. We are now accepting donations of used items to make our sale a success. Any items — except clothing — will be accepted at the History Center during our 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. business hours. After May 15th our business hours will change to 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. We are closed on Mondays. Call 636-1225 for more information.

## ANIMAL STORIES NEEDED

The Independent Animal Network is in the process of putting together a book of true animal stories to be published in the year 2000. If you have an uplifting, true tale of a pet, or a wonderful encounter with wildlife to share with them, please send your story to: Independent Animal Network, c/o Mary Louise Simmons, P.O. Box 75753, Colorado Springs, CO 80970-5753, or call 637-1998 for information. You can also email them at [GWAGS@juno.com](mailto:GWAGS@juno.com)

## FAMOUS THESPIANS OF THE PAST



*The play was "Roman Candle" by Sidney Sheldon and presented by the Colorado Springs Civic Players in the Fine Arts Center in March 1962. Orvis Grout was the Director. Can you recognize the actors?*

*That's OCCHS member Cindi Estes and our president Bob Heinich in performance. Cynthia and Bob also were the leads in "Drink to Me Only" in March 1961.*

# THE JOURNAL OF MINNIE MAYBERRY

Doris Wolfe gave a memorable presentation at our February General Meeting & Program. She read from the journal of Minnie Mayberry. As a young girl, Minnie Mayberry and her family traveled from Iowa to Fountain, Colorado by 'prairie schooner'. She kept a diary of her daily life during the journey and later wrote of the trip in a journal she had titled "My Life On The Prairie".

Doris' reading of the journal and Minnie's entries helped the audience to feel the excitement and the hardships of pioneer life. She tells of the day the family's favorite horse, Blackie, went blind while crossing the plains. Her Papa cried and sold the horse to a doctor in Pueblo for \$3 so he'd have a good home.

Her father's hopes of becoming a freighter were further diminished when he was robbed of everything but his pocket watch. They decided to go to South Park where they heard of people wanting ranch hands. On the way they

went through a little town off of the Indian Trail on the Fountaine qui Bouille called El Paso.

"We stopped at a postoffice called El Paso today," Minnie writes. "Papa came out smiling. He now has a job carrying mail. He said he guessed he was going to be a freighter after all, 'cause sometimes he might get to carry important packages to many people in important places."

Her father rented a small ranch in Fountain from his boss at the post office and Minnie finally had a home.

Doris also related many stories about the Fountain area including the account of "Wild Bill", who had shot a Fountain resident and was trapped in a grove of trees by Tom Owens. He agreed to give up peacefully only if Owen would see to it that he wasn't hung. Owen agreed but Bill was shot before reaching Colorado City. Thus Owen kept his promise.

Thank you, Doris, for a wonderful program.

## DAVE HUGHES - con't from page 5

Westside's history, heritage, preservation and renovation.

The afternoon ceremony was held in the dedicated walkway behind the Templeton building at the northwest corner of Colorado Avenue and 25th Street. Tim Scanlon, Colorado Springs Senior Planner, officiated the event and introduced the guest speakers. John O'Donnell, Bob Speer and Jim Ringe, Mayor Mary Lou Makepeace and Vice Mayor Leon Young. A bronze plaque officially naming the walkway as the "Dave Hughes Cyberpath" was then unveiled.

Dave Hughes grew up in Colorado Springs on Wood Avenue, the area of town the Westside advocate now refers to as Kansas. He graduated West Point and was a Korean War hero. After retiring from service, Dave became very interested in the rich history of Colorado Springs' Westside. He also became interested in computers and the newly developing Internet.

In 1976, while Dave was the chairman of the Colorado Bicentennial Committee, he worked closely with the Westside Commercial Club. In the early 1970's, developers were talking of bulldozing Old Town and starting anew. Gene Brent, Norm Clark, and other Old Colorado City residents had pounded the pavement and reorganize the long-abandoned Westside Commercial Club to unite the merchants in an effort to save the historic district and promote the area. After the Bicentennial, Dave joined their efforts and was the catalyst for the establishment of the Old Colorado City Historic District and renovation of these historic buildings.

His interests in the Internet and "spread-spectrum" wireless Internet technology are known worldwide. The old Roger's Bar in Old Colorado City received the attention of the world when Dave based his political bulletin boards there in 1978. He was dubbed "the Curser Cowboy" by the world's media when he began posting stories about "Old" Colorado City's history on the site. Currently Dave is field testing spread-spectrum technology for the National Science Foundation and advocating in Washington DC for

its success. He was recently named by WIRED Magazine as one the top "25 Wired People for 1998".

Dave was able to bring all of his interests together with the Old Colorado City History Center. A historian and author on Colorado City history, Dave helped form the Old Colorado City Historical Society and is currently their Vice President. He has been the driving force in making the society's new museum, the Old Colorado City History Center, the "most high-tech museum" in the West.

Dave Hughes, with his imposing stature, his always present Stetson hat, cowboy boots and flowing white beard, is as colorful a character as Old Colorado City has ever had. He will boast to anyone who will listen that "anything east of I-25 is Kansas and anything west of 31st Street is California." He steadfastly maintains that Old Colorado City was robbed of its glory by its devouring neighbor, Colorado Springs — "where there ain't no springs".

Old Colorado City does maintain its personality, identity and spirit, however, thanks to 'pioneers' like Dave Hughes. Dave will remain part of Old Town's history along with others like Anthony Bott, Rufus Cable, Melancthon Beach, Duncan Lamont and, yes, even Irving Howbert.

At 70, Hughes shows no signs of slowing down. He begins a new 'spread-spectrum' field testing project for the NSF in the remote areas of Puerto Rico this summer. He won't go anywhere, though, where he can't wear his cowboy boots. He is already planning his burial with his laptop computer installed with holistic software and powered by solar batteries. Six months after he's buried, Dave says, "my carbon will turned to silicon and on monitor screens all over the world will appear the words, "Hi, I'm Dave Hughes. Want to chat?" The history of Old Colorado City will live on, as will Dave Hughes.

Condensed from an article originally published in the Pikes Peak Journal, February 5, 1999.

# WEST SIDE MEMORIES

## TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

### ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO Winter 1874

¶ A Company designated as "The Cheyenne Trail Company," was formed on Monday last for the purpose of building a Trail up Cheyenne Canon and the Creeks of Cheyenne and its tributaries, and a Wagon Road to the Falls in the South Canon. The capital stock is \$500 in ten shares of \$50 each. 1/17 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ We heard the subject of a horse railway mooted the other evening. The time for such an enterprise has scarcely come yet, but we believe that it is not very far ahead. Let us get the College well under way, and good residences going up all around it as they speedily will, and such a convenience will soon be in demand. 2/7 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ From all that we can gather, the people of the Territory scarcely know whether to rejoice or to regret about the new Territorial appointments. The majority seem pleased with the prospect of getting rid of Governor Elbert but by no means gratified with the prospect of again falling under the rule of Governor McCook. 2/7 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ There is an Ordinance against leaving teams unhitched in the streets. If our country cousins would observe it, there would be less danger of accidents. 2/7 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Pueblo thinks that the Capital ought to be removed from Denver because the moral atmosphere of the latter city is so bad. The pot still calls the kettle black. 2/7 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ The County Clerk has a record of two hundred and twenty-five Brands. If anybody wishes to study hieroglyphics without the trouble of going to Egypt,

he can do so on application to the above-named gentleman. 2/7 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Marriage Licenses will be required after the first of March. If, therefore, you want to save the cost of a License, the only way to do it is to get married tonight. If you haven't popped the question, go straightway and pop it, and then off to the parson and get your happy life made miserable. Economy is a very praiseworthy virtue. 2/28 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ The Legislature has resolved to memorialize Congress for the admission of Colorado as a State. With all the mud-throwing that is just now going on in the Territory, we imagine that Colorado will present a rather sorry appearance, as she knocks at the door of the Union. Wouldn't it have been better to wait awhile, and apply a few coats of white-wash, before trying to thrust ourselves into decent society? 2/7 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Mr. D. A. Cowell offers the fixtures of his Billiard Parlor for sale, and the premises for rent. We are glad to learn that he has decided to quite the "saloon" business; we were sorry to see him ever go into it. 2/7 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Mr. E. S. Glover has received the lithographed copies of his Bird's-eye View of Colorado Springs, Colorado City, and Manitou. The Towns and their surroundings are depicted with great fidelity, every house being recognizable. The natural features around the creeks, the mesas, the Garden of the Gods, the Canons, Foothills, Mountains, etc.,—are also represented in such a manner as to convey a very accurate idea of the "lay of the land." Mr. Glover is having a reduced copy of the view prepared to be printed on letter-sheets. These will be very handy to send to friends east. 2/7 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Denver has become so frightened about the Capital, that she is doing her best to secure herself against another such narrow escape of losing it as she has just experienced. A Bill has been introduced into the Council to have the titles to all lots which have been given for Capitol purposes over-hauled and made good, and further, to have all such lots, except the actual site for the Capitol, sold at public auction, without delay, and the proceeds expended in the erection of Capitol buildings and the improvement of the Capitol grounds. We don't blame Denver for being solicitous about this matter. Once scared, twice shy. 2/14 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Preparations are beginning to be made for the summer rush, several new Boarding Houses having been opened recently. Amongst others, Mrs. B. F. Robbins has taken Dr. Smith's building on Pikes Peak Avenue, and Mrs. Mary Cropper has taken the building on Cucharas Street lately occupied by Mr. D. Shields. Mrs. Shields, by the way, is having the Mountain House rearranged so as to accommodate a larger number of guests. 2/11 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ The Utes still "linger patiently around." They propose to camp in the neighborhood for another two moons, in order to dispose of the large stock of ponies and buffalo robes, which they managed to run off from the Cheyennes. 2/21 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ The "Heathen Chinee" comes off victorious in other games than euchre. One of our prominent citizens rolled a game of ten-pins the other day with Yung Lee, and was obliged to declare the washer-man winner. 2/28 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ A couple of our citizens, unable to get all the whiskey they wanted in Colorado Springs, hired a horse and

# WESTSIDE MEMORIES

buggy on Tuesday night, and went over to the Old Town, to take their fill. By the time that they were ready to return, they were unfit to manage the horse, and the result was that they were pitched out, and the horse made its way home with a broken buggy at its heels. The little jaunt cost the gentlemen \$50. 2/28 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

## ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Winter 1899

Y A rather startling runaway occurred in this city, Thursday, when the trio of horses hitched to the Continental Oil company's wagon became frightened and dashed along Colorado avenue at full speed. The horses were standing in front of Dorluc and Rettiger's grocery store when they suddenly started up. They ran down Colorado avenue to Second street, turned down toward the company's yards and went through the large gate without even overturning the wagon or injuring themselves. When the horses started, several attempts were made to catch them, but all failed. One man on horseback attempted to stop the runaways, but his efforts were of no avail. 1/7 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

Y Professor Spangerberger's joint mandolin clubs from Colorado Springs and this city held a most enjoyable rehearsal last evening at the home of Mr. C. M. Sherman on Lincoln Avenue. Refreshments were served and the company passed a delightful evening. 1/12 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

Y Miss Soper, teacher of the third grade at the Bancroft school, observed yesterday as visiting day. She visited the schools at Colorado Springs. 1/19 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

Y Work has been commenced on the new Midland shops. Teams and men were put to work breaking ground last Wednesday and the shops will be pushed to completion as fast as possible. These shops are to replace those destroyed by fire a short time ago, and will cost \$10,000 for their construction. They will be complete in every detail.

They will be fireproof as far as possible and will be fitted up with perfect thoroughness. The contract requires that the shops shall be completed before the middle of the summer and so work will be pushed with great speed. This action by the Midland officials is taken to mean that the Midland shops will not be moved from Colorado City. 1/22 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

Y Fire Chief Minium has put in a new set of Hale patent release traps at the fire house. These are so arranged that one pull on a rope rings the bell and lets the horses loose at the same time. Heretofore, the horses have been tied with chains and it was necessary to snap each one and this took too much time. 1/22 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

Y Mr. M. K. Rankin has moved the house belonging to Mr. White, from the corner of Jefferson and Fifth street to Manitou, where it will be used as a summer cottage. 1/24 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

Y Superintendent I. B. Grafton, who has been suffering recently from an attack of the grippe, was so completely overcome yesterday afternoon that he was compelled to leave his work and go home. His condition is not serious, however, and his pupils took occasion to make a jesting quotation which they have often heard, "The only excuse for absence is death. 1/24 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

Y The trains on the west division of the Colorado Midland are all blocked by the heaviest snows ever known in the history of the road. Several trains are snow bound and the snow plows are of little avail in such heavy drifts. 1/29 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

Y The large store building on Colorado avenue between Third and Fourth streets recently built by Mr. R. T. Love is nearing completion. Large plate glass has been put in the front and all the doors and windows placed, making the outside appearance complete. The weather has been too cold to allow the plasterers to work, but when they finish

their part, the building will be ready for occupation. 2/7 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

Y There are this year in the eighth grade at the Bancroft school some 18 pupils but the superintendent states that next year's class will not number less than 35, making it almost twice as large. 2/8 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

Y The fair weather which prevailed in Colorado Springs yesterday was general throughout the section of the state where the railroads have been experiencing great difficulty in operating trains for the last three weeks and during the greater part of which time, traffic has been entirely suspended. The work of clearing the tracks was greatly simplified by the advent of weather in which the men could work without danger of perishing from the cold and it is believed that traffic on both the Colorado Midland and the Denver and Rio Grande will be resumed with a day of two. 2/14 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

## SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Winter 1924

Y The Trinity Methodist folks are busy constructing a fine large sleeping porch on the rear of the parsonage at 2232 West Kiowa. The porch is about 8x24 feet, and will be a splendid addition to this fine residence. The cost will be in the neighborhood of \$300. 1/4 *Colorado Springs Independent*

Y According to announcement, no action will be taken against Tom Gavin, the ex-Coxeyite and employee of the Broadmoor hotel, who recently shot down Burt Elliott, the hotel printer. It was thought at the time that Elliott was fatally injured, but he was able to be taken home from the hospital a few days ago. Last Saturday Gavin was released from jail. The Telegraph says: "It is believed that no charges will be preferred against Gavin, whose commission as deputy sheriff was recently revoked by Sheriff Sam Berkley." Is the revoking of a deputy sheriff's commission really sufficient action against a man guilty of shooting another? Does a

*con't on next page*

# WESTSIDE MEMORIES

deputy's commission immunize Gavin from one of the most dangerous of violations of law—the shooting down of a man without any shown provocation? Will the taking of his commission prevent him from shooting down others? These are some of the questions which will be asked during the coming campaign, and will be answered at the polls. *1/4 Colorado Springs Independent*

☞ The city work on covering the El Paso canal has been delayed by the cold weather. The gang is now at work near Thirty-Second street. For forty years the ditch has been a menace to the people near it and the territory through which it flows. Some lives have been lost on account of it and it has caused much sickness, being nothing less than an open sewer. The property loss on account of it is incalculable, due to its overflowing. This cost the West Pikes Peak Christian church people many hundreds of dollars the past year, the city meeting part of the loss. Everybody is pleased that the ditch is being covered. To get the work started took years of agitation, must persuasion and threatened litigation. *1/4 Colorado Springs Independent*

☞ Thursday morning the members of the West Junior High football team received their letters in general assembly. This team is the champions of the Junior High league, and all the West Side feels mightily proud of them. The following received letters: Robert Reeder, Eugene Milliken, Vernon Hopper, Theodore Milner, Eustace Cummings, Ralph Davis, Jesse Stanton, William Schmidt, Leander Mott, Ralph Davis, Elmer Chamberlain, Fred Orinsby, Leon Hilduck, Harley Setters and William Shaw. L. O. Waltenberger is the coach. *1/4 Colorado Springs Independent*

☞ A pleasant group of West Side young folks enjoyed a skating party last Friday evening in the Garden of the Gods. Those attending were Mrs. Bus Nelson, Miss Wanita Livingston, Miss Grace Darling, Miss Helen Robb, Mr. Bus Nelson, Speed Tarrington, LeRoy Shepherd, Leo Walgamood and Harry

Blunt. A large truck was used to carry provisions and wood for the fire at the reservoir. *1/11 Colorado Springs Independent*

☞ Thousands of cars were out Sunday afternoon. It was a wonderful day. Our thermometer, in the sun on the south side of the house, registered 79 above at 2 p.m. Wherever the sun hit the snow, there was much thawing. *1/11 Colorado Springs Independent*

☞ William I. Reilly, chairman of the state industrial commission, was down from Denver Sunday. He is a Colorado City boy who has made good. *1/11 Colorado Springs Independent*

☞ For the first time in over twenty years, all cars on the street railway system are dinkies. The change took place Sunday, when the two-men cars on the Manitou and Tejon lines were taken off. Several of the one-man cars were also taken off. The move was made to reduce the expense of operation for the winter. The traffic can be handled nicely with the small cars, and at a big saving to the company. Quite a number of the old employees, who were afraid to tackle the operation of a one-man car, are off for the winter. It is said the company is paying them a reasonable sum toward the cost of living expenses. *1/18 Colorado Springs Independent*

☞ Ralph A. Goff, one of the old-time Colorado City boys, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Goff of 2132 West Bijou street, passed away at his home in Santa Ana, California, on Friday, January 18. Death was due to an attack of intestinal flu, and came suddenly, after he had resumed work at the Gift store, which he owned and operated. As a youth, Mr. Goff was active in the social and musical circles of the Colorado City community life. Later, he was associated for many years with the Fort Collins Daily Courier, and was especially active in community life of that city. He moved to Long Beach in 1920, and later entered business in Santa Ana. The wife and twelve-year-old son, who survive him will carry on the business for the present. *1/25 Colorado Springs Independent*

☞ James Oscar Ryan, a veteran of the late World war, in the naval service, who had charge of some of Uncle Sam's torpedo boats, laying mines across the North Sea, as an engineer, against the German submarines, where they made their first check in the German subs, and later on received his diploma from the Naval school at Brooklyn, New York, and was then appointed chief engineer in the marine service plying between the port of New York and European ports, has been recently appointed one of the chief engineers of the port of New York, which is a very important and high-salaried position. It is surely gratifying to learn of Mr. Ryan's achievement and success in life. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Ryan of 1903 West Colorado avenue, and served his time as an apprentice-machinist under Jerry M. Dummer at the old Colorado Midland shops of Colorado City. He is one of the Colorado City boys who has gone out into the world and made good. *2/1 Colorado Springs Independent*

☞ The Woman's Study Club will meet with Mrs. Albert Allen, 2406 West Kiowa, Monday evening, February 25, continuing the interesting course of Bible study. Mrs. Viola Drew, will have a paper on David, the second King of Israel, and Mrs. Lamont will give a report of the State Federation of Women's clubs. *2/22 Colorado Springs Independent*

☞ A. M. Carver, formerly connected with the Federal Bakery, has purchased the Butterfly bakery at 2528 West Colorado avenue. He will make a number of improvements in the plant, including adding new equipment, and expects to be ready for business in about thirty days. *2/22 Colorado Springs Independent*

## FIFTY YEARS AGO Winter 1949

☞ For the first time in many years, Old Town again has a clothing store of Jerusalem ancestral lineage. Joe's store at 2425 1/2 West Colorado Ave., is a new and attractive one. He is a local product

## WESTSIDE MEMORIES

being born here. His father came here in the early days, working for Louie Feldman, who had a large secondhand store in the 2700 block on West Colorado Ave., the former location of Henry Coby's saloon. For many years, Joe and his father owned the Silver Eagle store on East Colorado Ave., which they sold recently and secured the present location on the West Side. The store room was refurnished and now is a very attractive place. Thirty to 40 years ago, Colorado City had a number of prominent business of Jewish descent. One of the oldest, was the late Simon Kranz, who had a clothing store here for many years. Others were Louie Feldman, Albert Golin, Phillip Kaplan and Nathan Yarchover. Adolph Kohn came here from New York for his health and for a number of years owned and managed the Idle Hour theater. He is now running a show in Troy, New York. His old friends here have not heard from him for some time. 1/6 *Colorado Springs Independent*

Y Colorado City W.C.T.U. will meet at the home of Mrs. Mary Cunningham, 1712 West Cucharas St. Friday at 2:15 p.m. The devotional leader will be Mrs. Humphrey. 1/6 *Colorado Springs Independent*

Y Two skating areas and a possible third were in topnotch shape for outdoor blade enthusiasts early this week according to the City Recreation Dept. The rink at Kiowa and Pine and the Wood Avenue Reservoir have fine ice. 1/13 *Colorado Springs Independent*

Y Thorndale Park has had a pool for many years, but it was never given much attention. What will please West Side youngsters is that a skating pond is being made at the park, and is expected to be ready for use at any time now, according to announcement of Willard Russell, city park superintendent. Old Colorado City had two public parks, each presents from early-day residents. Thorndale on North 24th street, presented by George R. Thorn, and Bott Park on South 25th, by Anthony Bott. Bancroft Park was formerly the

Bancroft high school grounds. Following the annexation of Colorado City to Colorado Springs in 1917, Colorado City School District No. 1 was annexed to Colorado Springs District 11. The school district sold the Bancroft building and grounds to the city, the building was torn down and Bancroft park made. 1/20 *Colorado Springs Independent*

Y In 1903 there were three pioneer druggists in Colorado City, R. F. Godfrey, James McIntosh and Walter Meyer, the latter not being as old as the former two. Mr. Godfrey was likely the oldest, as he was in business with his father before 1900. He owned the Godfrey hall, where some lodges still meet. James McIntosh built the McIntosh block, in which the post office has been for many years. All three of the drug stores were located in what is now the 2500 block on West Colorado Avenue on the north side, then the 500 block. Mr. McIntosh died some years ago. Mr. Godfrey not long back. He sold his drug store to Fred Koch, former clerk for Meyer, who sold to Dr. J. L. Tadlock. The Cooper-Lidke drug store was formerly owned by Mr. McIntosh. The Meyer drug store was formerly where the Osborne drug stores is now located. Meyer went to California to live many years ago. 1/13 *Colorado Springs Independent*

Y About 15 years ago, Dewley E. Decker came to the West Side and established the Decker Laboratories, Inc., for the manufacture of embalming fluid and burial equipment. For several years, he operated at 2528 West Colorado Ave. Then he moved to 2401 West Colorado Ave. About a year ago, he completed a large, modern cement block building on South Twenty-second St., near where the old Rio Grande depots was. It is a roomy place, fully equipped and embalming material and equipment are shipped to various places throughout the United States. Dewley's home is the old Anthony Bott residence at 2132 West Colorado Ave., one of the pioneer places of Colorado City and is

still an attractive home. 1/20 *Colorado Springs Independent*

Y Mrs. LaRue K. Ebersole of 212 N. Twenty-third street and infant daughter, Vera Nadine, were brought home from Memorial Hospital Monday evening. Her mother, Mrs. Fred A. Cassidy of Pueblo, is spending the week with them. 1/20 *Colorado Springs Independent*

Y The many extensions and other improvements being made on the West Side and Manitou Springs by the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Co., call to mind that a number of years ago the Colorado City exchanges was known as West and the Manitou exchange name was Manitou, instead of Hyland, as for many years. At that time, the Colorado City Telephone Company was doing business in Old Town. It was incorporated by local business men and the exchange was on South Twenty-fifth street, just north of the Newton Lumber Company office at that time. The system had several business phones, but never was a financial success. The Mountain States Company finally took it over and dismantled the system. 1/27 *Colorado Springs Independent*

Y Now a market generally has meat and groceries, while in the old days a market was only a meat market. Forty years ago, the Borst market in Colorado City, handled only meats. Charlie Schmeiser and wife both worked there, she as cashier and he as a meat cutter. When they operated a market, it was meat and groceries. A L. "Gus" Perry, a former employee of the Borst market, had a meat market where the Independent office now is located. It was meats only. Mike Dea was with him for a while. Gus has been dead some years. The Borst market was owned and operated by Fred, Emil and George, all of whom have been dead many years. They came from Indiana in the early days. 2/3 *Colorado Springs Independent*