

AUGUST 13, 1999

FIRST FAMILIES of COLORADO CITY

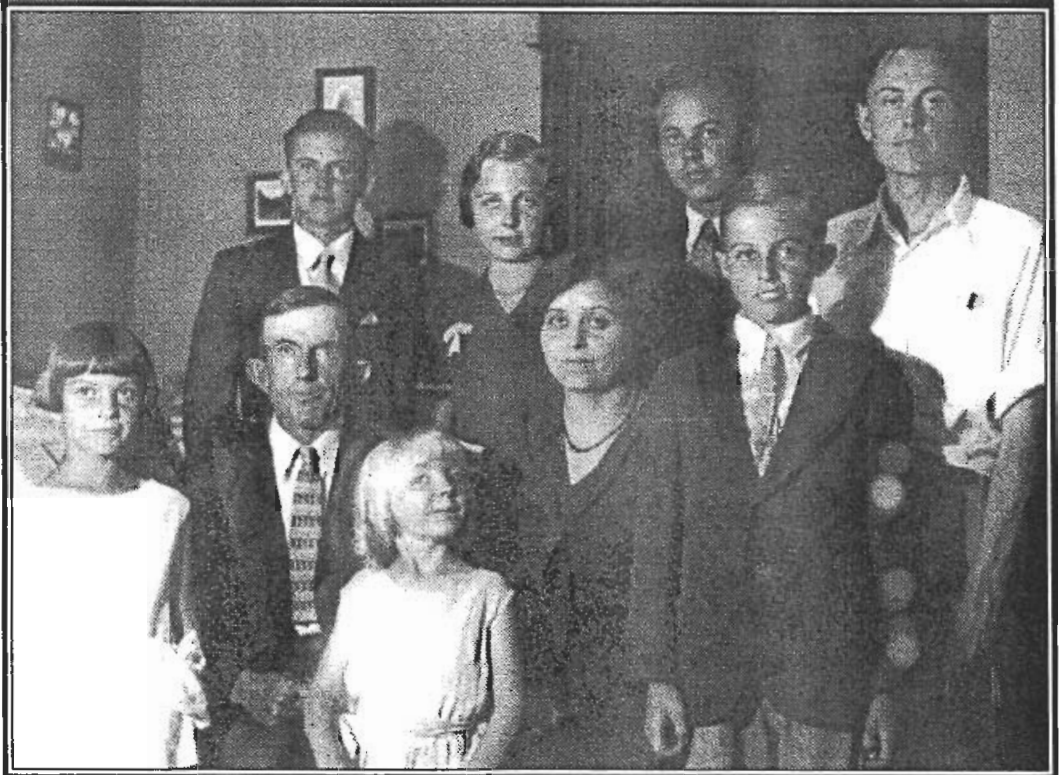
THE BLINDING FLASH —

*Portrait of a
Remarkable
Family*

One day in 1931 it was decided that we should have a family group picture taken. Everyone was dressed in the best they had, and we all assembled in the living room alongside the Boardman and Gray four-legged "grand" piano, diagonally across from the glass-doored bookcase that Dad had built a few years earlier. One lightbulb like a "bottle full of hairpins" glowed in the two-armed chandelier that hung from the ceiling. I set my 4X5 Pony Premo camera on one tripod, and adjacent to it on a second tripod, I arranged a flash cartridge whose fuse was to be lit just prior to my opening the camera shutter. There was just enough time for me to take my place in the grouping e had arranged.

I lit the fuse, withdrew the dark-slide from the film holder, opened the

The Family of Park & Anna Current



The Current family of Old Colorado City — (back row from left) Lynn, Maloa, Dick (Ole), Ira, (bottom row) Irma, Park, Grace, Anna, and Gene.

shutter, and scrambled to my position in the group. As was expected, a mild explosion accompanied the blinding flash. But then no one could see! We had all gone blind! How could I have set off such a powerful flash? I too was a bit apprehensive, until I noticed a small glowing ring a little over an inch in diameter at the end of the chandelier

arm. I had carelessly arranged the flash cartridge directly under the lamp, and the products of the explosion had completely covered the bulb which was still glowing inside. I quickly closed the camera shutter and turned on the other lamp in the fixture. We had regained our vision.

story & photograph by Ira Current

MAILBOX

Hi OCCHS!

Last year I was in touch with the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum sharing the memoirs of my husband's great-grandmother as they related to Colorado City. According to our story, Achilles B. Wade and his wife Nancy were among the folks who came to seek their fortune, building the first two-story log house. Kelly Murphy was great and tracked down the land they purchased, but many other parts of the story she was unable to verify. We are coming to Colorado for a visit in a couple of weeks and it occurred to us that you might like to see our story as well - unless you share information already. We will be happy to bring a copy of the *"Interesting Chapters in the Life of Mary A. Wade"* if you are interested. We are very excited about exploring the old city.

Cindy Griswold
bcsgris@jps.net

Cindy stopped by our History Center a few days ago and donated a copy of Mary Wade's manuscript. She brought us some very valuable information about Mary who was given her parcel of land because she was the first female into Colorado City. Thanks, Cindy, for your donation and for sitting with Dave for a taped interview. Dave has already found much more information that has been sent to you.

Dear Paul,

My husband and I were recently in the History Center while visiting Colorado Springs. We became interested in the Hoffman House display. We became even further intrigued when later in the day we ate at the Stagecoach Inn and discovered a picture which apparently showed a scene which took place in front of the Hoffman House. The picture showed a gunfight going on. There were several men on horseback. One horse and rider had fallen in front of the saloon doors. Another looked as if they were trying to ride right through the doors. This picture was located in the front porch room of the Stagecoach Inn. When we returned to the History Center to get more information, the woman who was working at the time suggested that we get in touch with you. We would like to get any information you have available on the Hoffman House, and would like to know how to get a print of the picture which we saw in the Stagecoach Inn.

Patricia A. Hofmann
Larry_Hofmann@keybank.com

We checked with Rob Stevens, owner of the Stagecoach Inn, and he let us view the picture Patricia was inquiring about. It's a Charles Russell painting showing a western street gunfight in front of a Hoffman Hotel. No relation to Colorado City's Hoffman House run by Brron Hames. We're forwarding this information plus a photo of the painting to Patricia.

Dear OCCHS members,

History researchers and genealogists of any ilk - Coloradans, Americans, Canadians or elsewhere - should have both passive and active interest in the struggles of one octogenarian trying to help all genealogists, researchers and

librarians everywhere

SOLVE AN AGE-OLD PROBLEM: The "clipped" obituary! You know, that little bit of newsprint from somewhere in Wisconsin, sent to your mother by a cousin perhaps 20 years ago, which reads: "Susie Smith died at her lake home on Friday. Burial from Christ Church on Wednesday" And here you are today trying to use the information in your genealogical efforts. But you have no idea WHAT lake or WHERE in Wisconsin! Nor, for that matter, how many "Christ" churches there may be in the state!

If you only had a clue . . . what's this? Down in the corner appears - in 4-point type so you almost missed it - some sort of a code - 15-characters long.

Off you go to a reference librarian or a genealogist asking "What is it?" And the first one says, "Oh, that's the PGCS - Publishers Genealogical Coding Service. Here, look on their website at www.obituarycoding.com. Check the first seven characters of that code ... the database on the website tells you the name and location of the newspaper from which the obit was clipped! The last eight characters ARE the publication date!"

Thus, with the addition of the PGCS code, "clipped" obituaries which are often almost worthless, now have real value and will live forever! Those who have them, will be able to learn their source location and publication date, easily and without charge!

Now, isn't that worth knowing about and worth doing something about yourself - to help hurry it up? Even though PGCS has 6 local papers and 1 national paper, so far, using the coding ... YOUR HELP is NEEDED! Go to www.obituarycoding.com and register, identifying yourself and the newspaper to which you subscribe and it's editor. PGCS will send you a cover letter about PGCS and a letter from YOU to the paper's editor (ready to sign and send) plus an explanatory page about the coding and an application form for the paper to use in starting the coding! What could be simpler?

And there's no cost to you - except perhaps for a few stamps, envelopes and copies. And the newspaper has but one, small, one-time charge for the license to their unique identity 7-character code. Lets give this all the help we can. Talk it up with your fellow historians and genealogists and register. If enough of us do it, surely your paper will start using PGCS.

So, Coloradans and otherwise, I hope you can use the above to alert your members in your newsletter and on-line.

Many thanks.
David W. Dole
Bloomington MN
dwdole@fishnet.com

Hello OCCHS Members,

Another website that's great for research is <http://www.cyndislist.com> - it's a link of all genealogy sites the web. Enjoy!

Jan MacKell
Cripple Creek, CO
lmcddaniel@aol.com

From Our President

I hope that everyone is having a good summer. In some parts of the country it has been very, very hot. If you are in one of these areas, please turn on the fan, put your feet up, and keep cool. Here in Colorado Springs, it has been hot, very warm, warm, rainy, and sometimes cool.....a typical Rocky Mountain Area summer.

In September, we will begin our regular monthly meetings. They will again be scheduled on the second Friday of each month at the History Center. The social hour with coffee and refreshments will start at 10:00 a.m., with the program beginning at 11:00 a.m. This year, the monthly program will be preceded by a short business meeting at which time I and other members of the Board will update the audience on events of the Society. It will also be a time when you can ask questions or bring issues to the attention of your Board of Directors. We will limit this business meeting to 15-20 minutes.

Jan Knox will continue to serve as our program chairman and I want to thank for her commitment to the Society in finding and scheduling the monthly programs. She is lining up another exciting series of programs for the coming season and to kick off the year, the September program will be on the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs. This program will cover a history of the Zoo with slides and charts and also an overview of why the Zoo is on the ballot for the November election. This will be an informative presentation, so make plans to attend this meeting. Come early and enjoy the socialization with your fellow Society members. More in the next *West Word*.

Until next month,
Gordon

From Our Treasurer

As of August 1, 1999 our Society has \$10,282 in the bank, is current in all expenses, and has no debt. We have had revenues of \$27,917 in 1999 through August 1st, with expenses of \$23,183. Earned interest from our \$59,860 Endowment fund (\$3,450 a year) is adequate to pay all our essential costs — utilities, insurance, telephone, and security system — without any other source of revenue. Further revenue from renewed memberships, tours, book store, darkroom, and commemorative brick sales, Founders Day activities, Cemetery Crawl, Christmas activities and miscellaneous expected gifts and grants should permit us to continue into 2000 in sound financial shape. Of course we could use substantial grants from members and friends for either developmental projects (collections, displays, publications, historical programs) or to the Endowment Fund so we can eventually cover all administrative costs from the earned interest, and use income from our activities for further historical research and development.

Dave Hughes
Treasurer

From Our Vice President

The OCCHS Volunteer Program.....

The volunteer program for the bookstore and event have worked very well thanks to our many committed members. There are about fifty people I can call upon regularly for the bookstore. During the winter, there are 30 hours a week of volunteer time and in the summer 42 hours in the bookstore. Twelve volunteers are needed every week. That's a lot of hours our members man the bookstore making sales, answering the phone, taking messages, and greeting and tallying our visitors. We are very appreciative of their time and effort. Occasionally when a volunteer suddenly cannot make his or her time, another volunteer, a board member, or Paul will fill in. Our bookstore hours are always covered.

We are registered with the Volunteer Center of the Pikes Peak Region. They will send us volunteers interested in our bookstore and standing committees: accessioning photos and artifacts, research, exhibits, and technology.

Also, we have many volunteers bake for our bake sales, man the cabin on Territory and Founder's Days, help with Treasure Sales and other events. And we can't forget the many volunteers who accession, enter data, and work on other special projects. I thank you one and all; we couldn't do it without you! Of course, we can always use more volunteers. Call me at 634-5023 to volunteer. If I am not in, put a message on my answering machine and I will return your call. You can also leave a message at our History Center, 636-1225.

Thank you,
Bev Disch
Vice-President

WHAT'S NEXT?

I light the spark and fan the flame,
And from its glow great things are wrought.
How cataclysmic is my power?
I've even tread on Babel's tower.

As dwellers in some ancient caves
Could clearly view each lunar phase,
Seed of my seed has come to bloom.
We've witnessed landings on the moon.

To save a life, to find a land
Or climb a peak, when said and done,
Are through man's quest; but don't disdain
The force that spurs him on again.

They say that I have killed a cat,
But satisfaction brought it back.
I lead the way in what's to be
For I am curiosity.

by Maloa Read

For Your Interest

Second Annual Fairview Cemetery Crawl

Our Second Annual Fairview Cemetery Crawl will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 11th and 12th. Come hear stories of the early days of Old Colorado City as told by the pioneers, settlers and residents who were there and now rest in Fairview Cemetery. Participants will be dressed in the period clothes of the person they are portraying. They all will have interesting stories of their lives in Old Colorado City and the Pikes Peak region..

Our First Fairview Cemetery Crawl held last year was an overwhelming success. Many visitors to last year's crawl told us they thought this was a wonderful way to present local history. Many of last year's participants are returning and some new volunteers have been added, too. The event is drawing near, but there is still time to join as a participant. Call Paul or Gordon at the History Center — 636-1225 — if you're interested.

The event will be held both days at Fairview Cemetery, 1000 South 26th Street, from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 12 years old. Tickets are good for both days for the purchaser. Tickets are non-transferable. All proceeds go to the benefit of the Old Colorado City History Center.

Tickets are available now at the History Center, 1 South 24th Street, and can soon be purchased at many of the Old Colorado City business locations. Call 636-1225 for more information.

Old Colorado City Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour

The Westside Innkeepers are hard at work planning this year's annual Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour. This is the fifth year for this popular event where the innkeepers open their B&B's for the public to enjoy the holiday decorations in these unique settings. Tickets will be on sale soon.

Tickets are \$10 if purchased in advance and \$15 on the day of the event. The tickets will admit the bearer to all the participating B&B Inns and to the History Center where there will be entertainment, refreshments and door prize drawings.

Volunteers are needed to serve as host and hostess at each of the Bed & Breakfast Inns and at the History Center. If you can help, please call our B&B Coordinator, Jan Knox, at 636-1225 or 689-2355.

Thank you, Jim Travis

The OCCHS Board of Directors, with regret and sadness, accepted the resignation of Jim Travis from the board for personal and business reasons. Jim has been a valuable asset to our society. In his capacity as an attorney, he provided us with valuable legal advice on various society concerns. Jim remains available to us for help as needed. Thank you, Jim, for all your help and advice. And best of luck!

The Board is currently reviewing candidates to fill Jim's seat on the Board of Directors and will announce the new board member soon.

1907 Colorado City Police Department Photo

Thank you to Colorado Springs Police Detective Joe Bonomo, Police Department Historian, for allowing us to copy a photograph from their collection. The photo was taken about 1907 of the entire Colorado City police department and city administration standing in front of the old courthouse on 26th Street. Each person in the photograph has also been identified. Thanks, Joe, for thinking of us with your Old Town material.

Departing Members

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of OCCHS member Lois Sullivan. We have also just learned of the death of Erman Biondini last month. Our heartfelt sympathies are with his wife, June, and their family.

HISTORY CENTER BOOK & GIFT SHOP PUBLISHES MEMOIRS OF OLIVE LANGSTON



Olive Walker Langston on the family ranch in 1928.

One popular item in the History Center Book & Gift Shop is the little book written by OCCHS member, Olive Walker Langston, titled **Homesteading In Eastern Colorado**. Olive writes of her early life growing up on the family homestead located near Punkin Center, Colorado and her early teaching years. We've had several small printings of Olive's book and sold out of them every time. After requests from several people and a school district, our Board and Betsy Evans, our Book & Gift Shop Manager, decided to print the book again. Her book is 14 pages, with 13 photos and sells for \$3.00 plus tax.

FIRST FAMILIES OF COLORADO CITY

The Family of Park & Anna Current

We've talked before of the unique spirit, character and personality of Old Colorado City. Since the opening of our History Center we have been learning a great deal about Colorado City history. We've already learned that Old Town's story cannot be fully understood by simply documenting dates, places and facts. The story of Old Colorado City is also in the stories of its people. It is the people of Colorado City, Old Colorado City, now Old Town and Colorado Springs' West Side who have given this community its strong and energetic spirit.

The Old Colorado City Historical Society is very dedicated about learning of the many individuals and families who settled here calling Colorado City their home. Last year we initiated our "First Families of Colorado City" program to honor those families who embody that what is Colorado City — hard working, energetic, honorable individuals who not only were molded by their family and their community, but also influenced the direction of Old Town's character.

This year we honored the family of Park and Anna Current. As you will learn with this newsletter, these hard working parents raised seven remarkable children, all of whom have carried Old Colorado City in their hearts throughout their lives.

Our celebration began at 10:30 A.M., Friday, August



13th, with a ceremony on the front yard of the family home at 3182 West Pikes Peak Avenue. The Currents had moved into this home just after the birth of Maloa, their fourth child. Fittingly, it is now the home of Maloa Current Read.

Vice Mayor Leon Young began the ceremony by reading the proclamation signed by him and Mayor Mary Lou Makepeace on behalf of the city of Colorado Springs proclaiming August 13th as Current Family Day. The plaque honoring the Currents as a "First Family of Colorado City" was then unveiled. The monument stone came from Queen's Canon, a regular playing area for the children. We'll have a photo of the ceremony in our next newsletter.

We were sad, as was Richard Current, that he was unable to attend as planned due to health difficulties. He was certainly there with his five siblings in

spirit. Ira came from New York to join Gene, Maloa, Irma and Grace in the celebrations. That night at our Annual Membership Banquet, Ira presented a slide program with stories of growing up in Colorado City. The next day, the family toured Red Rock Cañon, another childhood playground. It was their first time back there in about 70 years.

It was a wonderful Founder's Day weekend and great for us to finally get to meet Ira, Gene, Irma, Grace, and all of their families. Through Ira's stories and photographs, which appear regularly in *West Word*, we felt as if we've already known them for a very long time. In this special First Families Edition of *West Word*, we present some more stories from Ira about growing up in Colorado City. We've also reprinted a story from Ole about his neighbor "Bee" Love. Maloa's poems have also appeared often on these pages and we have another one in this issue on page 4.

Maloa also wrote about her family, using notes from her father, to be included in the EL PASO COUNTY HERITAGE. We present excerpts here to introduce to all of our members the family of Park and Anna Current — A First Family of Colorado City.

CURRENT FAMILY

by Maloa B. Current Read

Park Curry Current was born January 17, 1886, in Macuoketa (Jackson County), Iowa. He was the third child of Nelson and Harriet N. (Curry) Current. Park started to school at age four and had to help on the farm at an early age. His mother died of tuberculosis in 1897 and his father remarried

cont on page 12



Stories and photographs by Ira Current illustrate the wholesome fun of growing up in Old Colorado City in the 1920's and 30's. Here the boys are skinny dipping in Chambers Lake, now dry (most of the time) and located behind Rock Ledge Ranch.

Volunteers Honored at Banquet

The Old Colorado City Historical Society could not exist without the daily assistance of our members and volunteers. These dedicated people help us by staffing the History Center Book & Gift Shop six days each week, accessioning and cataloging the donations of items to our collections, handling the many, many jobs of maintenance and cleaning needed at the center, making home-made food for our bake sales and other events, handling walking tours and school groups, working to develop and maintain our website and data base, serving as hosts and hostesses for our many events — such as the annual B&B Holiday Tour, and many other areas of need. We sincerely thank all of our volunteers and benefactors. At our Annual Membership Banquet, we honored several volunteers who have gone further than the call for duty to insure that our Society and History Center continues to be successful. Here are those special individuals.

Our herb garden on the south side of the History Center has done much to add to the beauty of our building. We have many volunteers who plant and maintain our herb gardens. Judith Yarrow works hard to plan and organize our Herbal Renewal Committee. So this year we presented our *Beautification Award* to Judith.

Since we opened the History Center on May 13, 1997, we've had 11,907 recorded visitors through our doors as of July 31, 1999. That is a remarkable achievement for being open only two years and three months. Keeping our History Center clean for our visitors is a major task. This year we were very fortunate to have Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Services volunteer to clean our building once a week. For this we are very grateful and proudly presented them with this year's *Business Volunteer Award*.

We've mentioned many times that our Book & Gift Shop volunteers are the backbone of our operations. They all do a wonderful job. This year we had one special member who has done more than we could have asked. He not only works a regular shift almost weekly, he remains available when someone is sick or unable to make their shift. He worked hard to develop operation procedures for our new cash register that we're about to put in place. Plus he's always there to help for various duties with many non-Book Shop demands. The *Book & Gift Shop Award* this year was presented to LaRue Ebersole.

We have several volunteers who donate their time and expertise to accessioning and cataloging our collections and they deserve our deepest thanks. This year we honored one who has worked hard every week on cataloging our books, pamphlets and paper documents. She is doing a fantastic job — in spite of her constant frustration with filling our our new data entry sheets. This year we honored Agnes Johnson with our *Accessioning Award* for her contributions.

One prime directive in our Mission Statement is to educate. One of our honored members has done much to accomplish that goal. His stories and photographs beautifully illustrate life, culture, and family in Old Colorado City in the early 1900's. His early 16-millimeter films have

shared this history with thousands of Colorado Springs residents who have viewed them on the Library Channel on local cable, in addition to supplementing major productions on our history that will be viewed by people from all over the country. His consenting to the use of his films in the name of our society has done much to promote our respectability in the history world. This year we presented our *Education Award* to the eldest sibling of this year's First Family of Colorado City — Ira Current.

Our First Annual Membership & First Family Dinner last year honoring the Unser family was a beautiful affair. Our chairperson for that event worked long and hard to make it a huge success. Sadly, she moved to Oregon shortly after and we miss her very much. For giving us such a beautiful and successful first annual dinner and for all the other major tasks she accomplished for us, we honored Joanne Karlson with this year's *Programs & Events Award*.

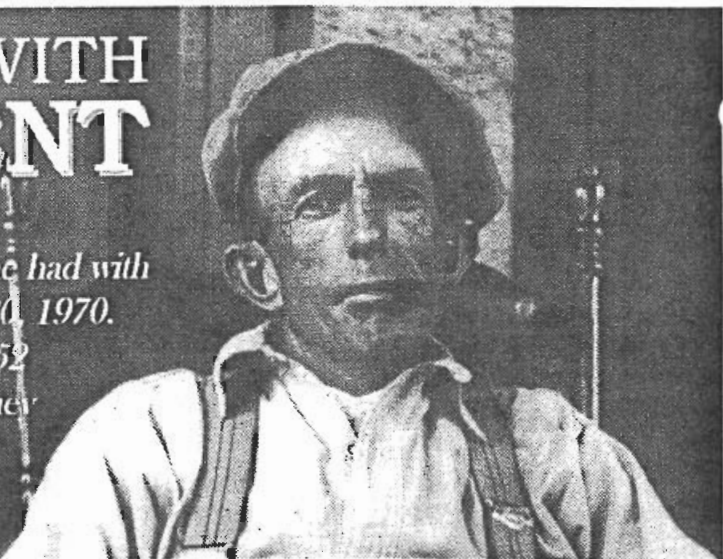
This year, thanks to a wonderful grant from the El Pomar Foundation, we constructed a database to house the information for everything in our collections. Once completed, we needed volunteers on a weekly basis to enter the data. Our database will give visitors to our website complete access to over 25,000 photos, hundreds of artifacts, oral and video interviews, and thousands of documents, manuscripts and other information. Our first data entry volunteers have also had to experience the frustration of starting up a new system with its bugs and flaws that get discovered along the way and need correcting. These volunteers have not only stuck with it, they've even helped with suggestions to make our data entry even better. At our banquet we honored three of these volunteers — Adele Dean and Tom & Doris Hendrix — with our *Technology Volunteer Award*.

This year's *Volunteer of the Year Award* recipient is truly worthy of being called special. She came to us almost immediately after her retirement party from the Pikes Peak Library District. She not only began to catalog and accession our book and manuscript collection, she also served as Secretary on our Board of Directors for a two-year term. And if that wasn't enough, she immediately went from her board position to take over the job of Book & Gift Shop Manager when Thelma Williams retired from that job. Our *Volunteer of the Year* is very special indeed — Betsy Evans.

Our final award is not given just for service to our Society and History Center during the past year. It is given for dedicated and talented service over many years to insure that our goals are met and our Mission Statement fulfilled. This year's recipient was directly responsible for meeting many of the directives stated in our Mission Statement, most prominently she insured that we would have a beautifully remodeled History Center to open to the general public. No one else could have accomplished this job of planning, implementing, and dealing with contractors with as much success. This year's *Luther McKnight Colorado City Citizen's Award* for the person who has done so much to accomplish our goals was presented to our Past President, Lucille Cunningham.

A CONVERSATION WITH PARK CURRENT

Ira Current tape recorded some conversations he had with his Dad at Park's home in Canon City on July 30, 1970. Park and Anna had retired to Canon City in 1952 where they continued to live until 1974, when they returned to Colorado Springs. Park died March 19, 1977 shortly after his 91st birthday.



photograph by Ira Current

The following are excerpts from Ira's entire interview.

Park: I still chew a plug of tobacco.

Ira: Even now, huh?

Park: Why sure! When you're working out there, trying to do something, you got to have something that you can work around and keep the germs quiet...

Ira: Yeah.

Park: Kill them off.

Ira: Yeah.

Park: The only trouble is that's one of the things I never learned when I went to school... chewing tobacco. *(laughter)*

Ira: Well, can you chew it without spitting?

Park: It depends on where I am working. When I am chewing it and there is a plush carpet like at Spence Penrose's or some of them rich folks, I never spit all day. It's just... talking about Spec Penrose... him and I was great friends. He had no use for me until I bawled him out on the riding academy. When I got done telling him, he knew he had been told. The next morning he came over and yelled, "How are you, Park?"

Ira: Probably wanted to hire you to put you on his staff!

Park: Well, old man Hetherington, the architect on the ice palace — part of the academy in those days — he was the nicest old man that ever lived. Most architects are the ones that cause you all the trouble, if you don't get done on the specified date, then you got to pay your forfeiture, and all that stuff. I was waiting for the old man to get out some details... waiting for details for the parapet — the detail on how it was to be framed. And... him and Penrose was out looking the job over. Of course, I had had a run in with Penrose when we was building the hotel — an addition for it... when I was working for Simpson, a contractor out of Denver. And the painter was from Philadelphia....forgot to paint one partition... this was in 1922. And Spec asked the painter if he had done this... if the wiring (worker) had done what he ought to do... if the carpenter had done this and that. So then (Penrose and Hetherington) come along and Spec says to me, "Current! If you don't get something done around here I am gonna ram you over here and put on a gang of my own."

But boy I hated to do it, but MacDonough and I told him off. After he left, the old man was still standing around there — Mr. Hetherington — says, "Park, I'm sorry that this happened." He says, "You go ahead and frame them up the way you think they should be and I'll detail to suit." Which I did. And the job was done. And (illegible), the contractor, I think he got his money before they ever got the details. And I used to ride him (Hetherington) something terrible. And he was around there one afternoon until almost quitting time. He says, "Park..." He says, "Any time that you have anything... anything to ask me about, just call me up before you leave here and I'll be at the office until you get in there. I'll at least assure you of courteous treatment."

He got along with Charlie Thomas. You remember Charlie Thomas, don't you? He used to be Mayor of Colorado Springs. He was the architect when we built twelve rooms on the old high school there. And, I was working on a Saturday afternoon with a bunch of laborers — they weren't supposed to be working on Saturdays... we had a five day work week in those days — and we was wrecking forms. We had to take the north end of the old roof — you know how it went... it was a hip roof. There were six by twelve rafters up there... heavy stuff... six foot apart with a two inch deck on them.

I heard somebody whistling. I looked out the window and there (Charlie Thomas) was. He had his golf knickers on and his little roadster was parked out on the side of the street there. And he says, "Current! I thought you was going to have this roof out here done by today!" And one word led to another and I left and started down. I had to go clear over to the main stairway — we didn't have the new stairway on the rooms I built on — we had to use the old stairway. It was built onto the 1893 addition to the high school. And brother, by the time I got down, I couldn't find Mr. Thomas. Hide nor hair of him. And one or two days later, Schroeder, who used to live across the street — he was a streetcar conductor... although we had buses in them days. He was a pretty nice guy. He says to me, "What did you come down here for?" He says, "I seen Mr. Thomas come out of there like a bat out of hell" *(laughter)*

A Conversation with Anna Current

Ira Current sat down to interview his mother, Anna, on September 23, 1973. The excerpt printed here begins when Anna was talking about working for Lederer & Strauss in Des Moines, Iowa, the largest millinery house in the world. She continued to tell Ira about a time when she became very ill and went to the doctor.

Anna: ...he tried this TB test on me. He said he had only had one patient that looked like this, and he didn't last long either. So he told me to go to Colorado. So I told him that I had a cousin in Colorado Springs. He said, well that would be fine. So I went, and I just got along fine.

Ira: He had diagnosed it as TB?

Anna: So then I got there, and Hibbards (Department Store) had a sign... oh yeah, and Mr. Strauss... he had given me a letter of recommendation. So Mr. Hibbard — he had a piece in the paper that they wanted a milliner. So I went over there, and I told him where I had worked and everything, and showed him the letter of recommendation. So he said, "You're hired". So I went to work there, but there was a girl that lived right close to my cousins, and she knew about my illness. She had told some of the other girls. She told them that I was tubercular. And they went to Mr. Hibbard and told him that they couldn't work with anyone like that! Well, he said that he was sorry, but maybe they could get work somewhere else.

Ira: So Hibbard was a pretty good character?

Anna: Oh, he was awfully good to me. He brought his wife to Colorado Springs and she died of TB. And so he was just a real nice man.

Ira: Did you do your millinery at Hibbard's? Did you make hats?

Anna: Yes. We had to trim hats and to fix hats. Of course, it was different than the other (Strauss' store) because at the other we worked on summer hats in the winter and winter hats in the summer. we had to get them ready, you know.

Ira: At Hibbard's you would take a basic hat and make it up different?

Anna: Yeah — in the winter time it was winter, and the summer time it was summer. And then when fall came... it was about Christmas time that we were through with the hat business, so he sent me down to work in the... you know, selling of material. And then after a while they laid us off. Then we got married.

Ira: (to his father, Park) And you met her at Hibbard's?

Park: Her cousin was my brother, Ira's, wife. My cousin lived in Colorado Springs — that was Anna Sanburg. And she went out to live... she had a tent house out at my Aunt Isabel's (Isabel Buttolph).

Anna: Well, then that Mr. Hibbard called and said that he wanted me to come back to work.

Ira: Even after you were married?

Anna: Yeah, but he didn't know it. So I told him that I was married.

Park: Oh, sure... she married a guy that was making two dollars a day.

Anna: Well, two dollars a day was enough then.

Ira: What did Hibbard's pay?

Anna: Well, I expect that was about two dollars a day, too, wasn't it?

Ira: A milliner was probably a profession, wasn't it? You had to be pretty artistic.

Anna: Oh, you had to be artistic, all right. But when it came to paying, they weren't so particular.



Anna Current, with daughters Irma and Grace, watch the boys' Chug races on White Loaf Hill in 1928.. Anna died September 4, 1986 at the age of 97.

Ira: Us children must have gave you a bad time...

Anna: Well, I didn't know about it until after you were grown up. You didn't tell me about your escapades at the Garden of the Gods. You were always playing up there. But every once in a while somebody goes up there and gets killed now. They fall off the rocks.

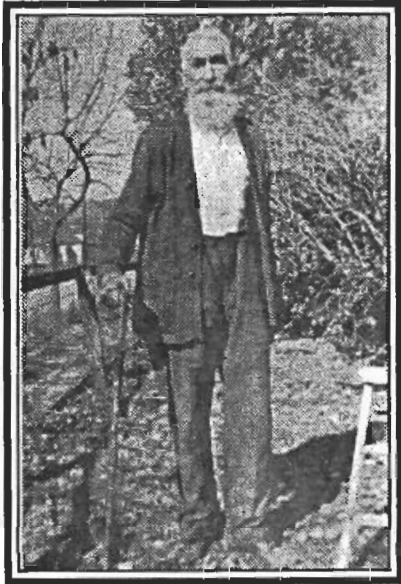
Ira: Well, we didn't do that. But, the closest shave I ever had was with Dillingham who fell off the rocks. And I forgot who it was, either a Livingston or somebody, and I grabbed him just as he was going over the edge... and hauled him back up again. That was on Gray Rock. The north end of Gray Rock.

Park: It is a different formation (than) the red rocks.

Ira: ... it's easier to climb. The last time I was on Gray Rock, I didn't think I could make it. ...these trips that they had us taking... at the Arches National Monument were about the same as climbing Gray Rock ...I was afraid I was going to fall off myself. I'm a little out of practice. (laughter)

A GLIMPSE OF A COLORADO PIONEER

by Richard Current



Photograph by Richard Current

I interviewed Mr. Love, our neighbor in the 3100 block of West Pikes Peak Avenue, in the fall of 1928 when I was turning sixteen years old and he was eighty-four, my present age. My brother, Ira, lent me a camera to take Mr. Love's picture. I submitted this article and the photograph to the Gazette-Telegraph, which ran both of them without any byline or credit of any kind. This was my first publication in American history.

In my youth, the sixty years from 1928 back to 1868 when Mr. Love first arrived in Colorado City, seemed to me like an unimaginable length of time. Since my conversation with him, more than sixty years have passed.

That now seems like a very short time.

In the shadow of Pikes Peak, where three score years ago Arthur Bascom Love lived in the color and uneasiness of frontier life, now with his wife he lives in quiet and security. Whereas his house once stood out alone, others have since sprung up all around, and innovation and change have made "old town" almost unrecognizable.

"Bee" Love, as he was known to his old friends, lives in the past. A few words, a question, and the years are magically erased. While he strokes his grey beard, a faraway look comes to his faded blue eyes as if he were actually peering across the brink, trying to locate some object, some event, afar on the opposite bank of the chasm of time.

Born in Kentucky of pious Methodist parents who named four boys of their family of ten boys and two girls for Methodist bishops, he spent a large part of his youth across the line in Missouri.

"Why did I come west?" He chuckled. "Oh, just to better my fortune — like every one else." And by what whims of fate he was denied a fortune!

Accompanied by a friend, Arthur Love, a young man of twenty-four years, set out on foot from southeastern Missouri in April, 1868. At Sedalia he parted with his companion, who turned back to Illinois. Shortly afterwards, Love became ill with typhoid fever. In a few weeks he was wandering the streets, penniless, friendless and weak from his recent illness. He secured work, at last, with the Union Pacific Railroad, which was building westward. When he quit, he was given a ticket on which he could "ride as far as he wanted to". He left the train at Cheyenne, Wyoming, virtually the western terminal of the road at that time.

Since two of his brothers were already in the Pikes Peak region, he started in that direction. He rode with mule team freighters to Denver, then walked the eighty miles through Indian-infested territory to Colorado City. Of his trip he observes in that way of his, "I started out walking and I ended up walking, but I didn't walk all the way."

Not long after his arrival, he sold his 160 acres on the east bank of Monument Creek, the present location of the Colorado College campus and the fine residential section of Colorado Springs, to the Fountain Colony Company for thirty-five dollars! That was the first time a potential fortune slipped through his grasp.

Mr. Love bought his brother's holdings and during the late 1860's and early 1870's drove cattle in summer and freighted to Denver in winter. In either case, the dangers were plenty since the Cheyennes and Arapahoes were making their last stand to hold their tribal lands and were using intimidation as a means to drive out the settlers.

Once, when Love and two others companions were each driving a seven team wagon through the Black Forest, they saw a band of hostile Cheyennes riding along at a distance, shadowing them. Only the fact that the wagons were covered, keeping the Indians in the dark as to the exact number of white men, prevented an attack.

When Mr. Love tells of these experiences, red deprecations, calls to the log fort, and all, he never uses the word "scalp" or "massacre": the words are "skelp" and "massacray."

Needing posts with which to fence his ranch, he took a claim in Williams Canyon. In compliance with the homestead law, he built a cabin and put in the winter of 1869

there. Before spring had come, crippled from rheumatism, he was forced to walk on crutches. His shack was but a short distance from the "sody springs" at Manitou, enabling him to bathe his afflicted leg every morning in the natural carbonate basins of bubbling mineral water now piped to the immense bathhouse, where people from the country over came to ameliorate their various ills.

It was while hobbling about on crutches that he first noticed in the side of the canyon the mouth of the cave which was later to become famous as the "Cave of the Winds." This he determined to explore when opportunity offered. As soon as he was able, he shoveled out the opening, making the access easier, and entered.

There, in the flaring light of a pine-knot torch, human eye first beheld the wonderful, grotesquely gorgeous formations of that vast cavern. Little did 'Bee' Love dream, as he gazed on the beauties of the subterranean palace and made his way in awe from chamber to chamber, that the time would come when the cave, lighted by electricity, would be visited by more than a thousand people a day. A veritable gold mine. "Better that a mine," as Mr. Love himself says, "because it never plays out."

Then, unaware of its value, he let it go. It changed hands several times before it was finally exploited. This second potential fortune also slipped through his grasp. Had he kept it, his declining years would have been easier.

After he was married in 1874, Love and his wife moved to South Park, a prairie in the mountains, and ranched there for a year. From that time Love's privation and pleasure, hardship and happiness, were shared by his wife. Three children, two girls and a boy, were born to them. Following a brief visit to Kentucky, Love returned to Colorado City and prospected a while in the neighboring hills with indifferent success. He turned again to his old occupation of ranching until about twenty years ago, when he took up work in the city.

"I never had any money I did not have to work for," are his words, and they are tinged with something akin to pride.

On Sunday, until recently, his ancient buggy might be seen regularly hitched outside the Methodist church. But his horse is gone; his cow is gone, too. Just the chickens and dog, besides the orchard and garden, remain to be taken care of.

His bulky, clock-like watch, fifty years old, says five minutes till five. "I've got a little irrigating to do — going to let it soak in for the winter," he explains as he walks off with the support of his cane.

And as I look after him, I reflect on this man who makes up none of the chronicled gilt edge, but is a unit in the solid foundation of this western empire.

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The Three Sisters

August 12th was the 140th Anniversary of the founding of Colorado City. As we celebrate this event by honoring the family of Park and Anna Current and have fun in Bancroft Park, here's a look at the unique relationship of our three towns at the base of Pikes Peak as originally reported in THE IRIS on April 13, 1892.

They are three sisters — Pike's Peak is their grim and faithful guardian.

Colorado City is the eldest of the three, Colorado Springs is the largest and Manitou is the youngest and the prettiest.

Colorado Springs is the most intellectual, boasting a college, beside the numerous fine schools. She is more religious, too, than her elder sister, Colorado City, who is inclined to be gay and worldly. Besides this, Colorado Springs is a great girl for temperance, and can talk prohibition by the hour.

Colorado City, however, enjoys a social glass and is more free and easy than either of her sisters. Being the eldest she might be expected to set a good example, but she shirks the responsibility. Still each year adds to her dignity and she is putting aside many of her wild and frolicking ways with her childhood. She is even clasping hands with her sister, Colorado Springs, although at one time they were barely on speaking terms.

Manitou is nature's own daughter; as the youngest sister she is the delight of both Colorado City and Colorado Springs. She has many admirers at home and abroad, and sometimes she grows rather vain of her beauty and talks saucy to her sisters; but they can excuse her, she is so charming, and there should be no question of rivalry among them. The same inheritance of Italian skies and sunny days, of mountain wealth and picturesque scenery is theirs. One cannot improve without helping the others.

For the sake of the good old family name of Colorado we hope these three sisters will consult each other's interests and not quarrel about their good looks, for neither one would amount to much without the others, as they are mutually dependent.

Manitou will always be sort of a summer girl; Colorado Springs is gradually developing into a cultured lady, and Colorado City generally has on her working attire and is the industrious one. But despite different characteristics they are sisters, and by all means should sustain amiable family relations.

— *Colorado Springs Critic.*

Fowl Caretakers

by Ira Current

On the south side of Pikes Peak Avenue, about a half block west from where we lived at the corner of Thirty Second Street, lived a man we always were told was a member of the clergy. He often rode his bicycle up and down the street while reading a book held open in front of him. We were not on speaking terms with the man. Later, as he was dying, our youngest sister, Grace, was born. When he heard this news he muttered "Ah, the everbearing Currents", and expired.

He employed the Machovek sisters, Lillian and Clara, as housekeepers in the rather large house by our standards on a lot to match. I thought Clara was a nice dish, but Lillian seemed to be one to be wary of. The land supported a rather substantial number of chickens, along with an equal number of ducks. I was hired to take care of these fowl, along with carrying out other yard keeping chores, and I subcontracted my brother, Ole, as an assistant. Clara and Lillian had the duty of supervising our activities.

These duties included managing the fowl, keeping their hutches clean, maintaining a small pond for the ducks, gathering the eggs, and feeding them properly;

mostly dry grain spread around for the chickens, and a moistened bran concoction for the ducks. Even though the chickens had plenty of feed, they insisted on attacking the duck rations also, driving the ducks away from their food. Our sentiments were with the ducks, more lovable creatures, and we finally came up with the idea of floating the duck food in a pan at the center of the pond. The crazy chickens tried to swim out for the bran mix, and we lost several of them to drowning before the situation could be corrected.

There was a good supply of half-bushel baskets on the premises. Ole and I found that when one of these baskets was placed up side down over a chicken, the basket would appear to be running around the yard. We extended this to several of the chickens, and soon had an entertaining yard full of baskets moving in all directions. The ducks joined us in watching the fun. At the height of the excitement, Lillian appeared with a reprimand that if my hands and feet were as nimble as my mouth, I was going to go a long way. To this day, I don't know what aspect of this event had to do with my speech.

CURRENTS OF COLORADO CITY - con't from page 6

in 1898. His brother, Ira Current, went to the Spanish-American War in 1898. Park's sister, Belle, died in 1899 of tuberculosis. From 1900 to 1902, Park worked for various farmers in the Macuoketa area, in addition to the family farm.

When he had accumulated enough money, he came to Colorado, arriving the second day of October 1902. Park's brother and an aunt, Isabel Buttolph, were living in Colorado Springs. His aunt lived in Cheyenne Cañon, where Park got a summer job after a hectic try at the Colorado Springs High School. He worked as a soda jerk and hack driver for the people in the tourist trade. He also drove the high drive and became acquainted with Captain Jack at the summit of the high drive. She had a six shooter a foot long and knew how to use it. Most drivers bypassed Bruin Inn and took their passengers to Jack's place for dinner. Park worked for the city of Colorado Springs in the fall and winter on maintenance of North Cheyenne Cañon and South Cheyenne Cañon to the toll gate. In 1907, when Mr. Current was 21 years old, Babe Dodson, chief of Canyon Police at that time, employed him as a canyon cop where he served three years. He started to work as a carpenter for Henry Barkey in the fall of 1909 and joined Carpenter's Union #515 on January 10, 1910.

On January 20, 1910, Park Current took Anna Christiansen for his bride. They were married at the famous town of Cripple Creek, Colorado. Anna was born in Fleming, Colorado, April 3, 1889. However, she had lived for some time in Callender, Iowa and Des Moines,

Iowa. She came to Colorado Springs in August of 1909 for her health and was employed as a milliner at Hibbard's Department Store prior to her marriage.

After Park and Anna Current were married they moved from Cheyenne Cañon to Colorado City, west of Colorado Springs. It was a nice town with only twenty-one saloons, seventeen of them in a row. George Birdsall was Chief of Police and later served twelve years as sheriff of El Paso County. Mr. Current belonged to the Arensdale Volunteer Fire Department until it was disbanded. He worked as carpenter at the Broadmoor Hotel around 1918. In 1928 he was foreman on the Grace Episcopal Church construction which took twenty-one months to complete. In 1929 he built an addition to the old Colorado Springs High School and in 1930 he was foreman on the Broadmoor Riding Academy, also formerly known at the Ice Palace. In 1935 he was a builder on the large log building for Girl Scouts at Camp Greenwood.

Park and Anna Current were the parents of seven children: Ira B. Current, born October 30, 1910, a teacher of photography at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York; Dr. Richard N. Current, born October 5, 1912, retired from University of North Carolina at Greensboro as professor of American History; Lynn A. Current, August 8, 1914 and died in June of 1934; Maloa B. Current Read, born October 9, 1916; Eugene L. Current, born September 7, 1918, retired as geological engineer from Cities Service Oil Company; Irma Ruth Current Hilfers, born January 14, 1924; Elna Grace Current Ball, born April 1, 1926.

Vices and Desires

by Ira Current

The world was a different place when we were growing up in the tens and twenties, but young minds seemed to always search for trouble. We had to try our hand at the forbidden smoke, find out the merits of alcohol, even with prohibition. To be sure there was the "bad element" who smoked real cigarettes, or who even rolled their own. The Osage Indians from Oklahoma who visited Colorado seemed to find alcohol a necessity.

Smoking was "in", but even then there were crusaders: men with tuberculosis sometimes referred to as "consumption" who attributed their problems to smoking. They toured class rooms with a demonstration consisting of placing the butt end of a cigarette on a white porcelain surface to leave a yellow spot of nicotine. That spot was the material that coated our lungs many times over with the repeated puffs on the cigarette.

Strict household rules limited smoking to our dad, a carpenter, who drew on a big cigar while resting after supper on the front porch. He also had a pipe which as everyone knows required a lot of scraping, refilling, tamping and re-lighting. He even chewed tobacco which prompted our local health officer to declare no germs would live in there, while he was taking swabs of all of us at the time Richard had diphtheria. But don't let him catch any of us indulging in the terrible habit.

Nevertheless we had to experiment. Dried corn silk when formed into a cigarette wrapped in a page from the Sears, Roebuck catalog seemed to go quite well. Then there were cigarettes made with a coffee filler. Coffee could also be smoked in a pipe. How we survived the dark tarry material from coffee, I will never understand. Banana veins, dried, then formed into a cigarette were supposed to produce euphoria comparable to the drugs we had heard about. I am told some took the roots having a cigarette diameter from elm trees to have a smoke. The cellular structure was continuous, and worked well, at least as far as burning and producing smoke. Later, with more sophistication, we could produce cubebs at our local drugstore even though we were below the age of legal smoking. Then as camp counselors at Ralph Hubbard's Ten Sleep, we observed Tom, our imported real cow puncher, roll genuine smokes in paper designed for the purpose using Bull Durham tobacco.

For some of us, this experience taught us that smoking was not necessary for a good life. Unfortunately for others, the experience may have led them into a bad habit.

During the depression, Dad had to leave Colorado Springs to find work. One summer while he was away, mother decided to rent our home to visiting Osage Indians from Oklahoma whose wealth came from the new oil production on their lands. With what we called the great shed cleaning party we tidied up the building to provide temporary quarters while we were displaced



photograph by Ira Current

Smoking corn silk — Gene Current in 1927.

from the house. This also allowed observation of Indian behavior under the influence of alcohol.

Our Indian friends did not have to find a resident bootlegger. They thrived on flavoring extracts used for cooking — lemon, vanilla, what have you. This could be purchased by the case at Anna Ray's grocery. Containing near 40% alcohol, these products made beverages approximately 80-proof.

Well, if the Indians could do it, why don't we? We pilfered extract from our kitchen. I wonder if Mother ever noticed the shrinkage. We thought it ought to be aged, so it was put in pint fruit jars, along with fruit juices and buried in the ground for a few weeks. Aging did nothing as far as one could tell. If the concoctions had an inebriating effect we did not recognize it. So drinking was delayed for a later, more social period of life.

Dad, who was no drinker, occasionally arrived home on Saturday afternoon after a week's work, obviously under the influence. He was not tolerant of bootleg or any other alcohol beverage, for the afternoon invariably ended in his misery.

Later, at Ralph Hubbard's Camp Ten-Sleep Ranch some of the counselors were into a clandestine beer brewing venture, but again the product was difficult to ingest and it often contained artifacts like spiders and other foreign material.

Perhaps these experiences of near failure taught us more than any moralizing teachings, that many of the vices are not worth the trouble.

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

SEVENTY-SIX YEARS AGO Winter 1923

¶ Quite a number of West Junior High boys, accompanied by Lawrence Wolfe, hiked to Loud's cabin in Jones park last Saturday and remained until Sunday evening. They report a fine time. *3/9 Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Among those who recently attended the meeting of the El Paso County Pioneers' society were Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Kinsman, who came to the Pikes Peak region in 1862. According to accounts they were the only couple who had the pleasure of again meeting with their old-time friends. *3/2 Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ The Passion Play, under the general supervision of Father H. V. Darley of Sacred Heart church, is being staged in the Burns theater today and tomorrow. No expense has been spared in providing the finest costumes possible for the production. Most local people are filling the cast. *3/2 Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Dr. N. N. Brumback, designer and builder of the Mount Manitou Scenic Incline, died Monday night at his residence at 2321 Tejon street. *3/23 Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Tuesday night was a big time for West Siders who attended the cafeteria turkey dinner and regular business meeting of the West Side Commercial Club, which was held at the Newton Lumber company office. Fifty-nine passed in "review" and were generously served roast turkey and all the usual trimmings. Duncan Lamont, retiring president, presided during the evening. The following officers were elected for the next year: J. Albert Nelson, president; W. H. Ogle, vice-president; D. A. Nichols, secretary; W. H. Rowe, treasurer. A motion was made and passed that the club is squarely behind the city

council in its fight for municipal ownership of the light plant. *3/9 Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ The El Paso canal, so-called, but just an open sewer, is a menace to health and property. How many people over town would tolerate it, even though it were not a violation of state law, which it is? West Siders can go into court and compel the city council to cover it, but that means delay in litigation and much unnecessary expense. There is always a way to care of the desires of those east of Monument creek *3/9 Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Quite a number of West Junior High boys, accompanied by Lawrence Wolfe, hiked to Loud's cabin in Jones park last Saturday and remained until Sunday evening. They report a fine time. *3/9 Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Fire companies 3 and 5 were called to 2917 West Colorado avenue Tuesday morning to put out a fire that partially destroyed the roof and did quite a bit of interior damage. The property belongs to Mrs. M. E. Albright and was occupied by R. W. Hubbard and family. The fire started in the attic and did damage to the amount of about \$1,000. *3/16 Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ The first week in the 12-week trial of the transferable pass system inaugurated by the Street Railway company last Monday morning is proving quite popular. *3/23 Colorado Springs Independent*

FIFTY-TWO YEARS AGO Spring 1947

¶ Thirty-seven members of the Borst family picnicked at Austin Bluffs last Sunday. They were George, Harold and Ted, Mrs. Bertha Reid and Mrs. Ruth Mickle and families, all of this city; Eddie and Mrs. Elizabeth Ledgerwood of Craig, Colorado.

Other members of the family not present are Mrs. Alma Corporan of Aruba, Panamerica, off the coast of Dutch Guiana, South America; Mrs. Helen Billingsley of White Face, Texas, and Mrs. Margaret Wilson of California. Forty years ago the Borst meat market was a Colorado City business. Fred, Emil and George came here from Indiana. The late Gus Perry and Charlie Schmeiser worked for them before going into business for themselves. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Corporan have lived in South America many years. Fred's father, the late Charles E. Corporan, was a Colorado City merchant in the early days.

¶ Following a vote to disincorporate Ramona, by a court order last week, at the spring election, the town of Ramona went back into El Paso county territory, so in the future it will be just the village of Ramona. After Colorado City voted dry in 1912, Frank L. Wolff and Clarence Kinsman started the town of Ramona, to satisfy the wet elements of Old Town and Colorado Springs. The town was incorporated in 1913, and thrived until national prohibition in 1918, after which it was a residence section. George F. Geiger was the first mayor of Ramona, and his cousin, L. C. Moats, was marshal. Old Bobby McReynolds was town clerk and police judge. The town jail was a small frame shack, seldom used. The first business place was a small frame building moved in and used as a saloon. Later there were some very good buildings erected, including an athletic club, owned by George Geiger, who also had a saloon. Byron Hames and R. E. Chipman had the first wet place in the new town. Both men were out of business in Colorado City when the place voted dry. Ramona will continue to be a nice home location because of sunshine and splendid views of the mountains.

¶ The Colorado City W.C.T.U.

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

will hold their April meeting on Friday, in the Bethany Baptist church, at 2:15 p.m. The devotional will be lead by Mrs. Mary Cunningham.

∴ The Midland Improvement society met Tuesday, in the home of Mrs. Charles Rogula, 2422 Hagerman St. Roll call, "An Amusing Story I've Read Lately"; Timely topic, Mrs. Mitchel, Mrs. Reifel. Drawing gift brought by Mrs. R. Long. Program was arranged by Mrs. John Sherbak.

∴ Any plumbing firm in town will tell you plumbing fixtures are still scarce, but when reports come in to the police department concerning a stolen bathtub, you know things are tough. M. M. Van Nattan, 327 South 18th St., contacted the police department Friday, stating a bathtub had been stolen from the yard of his home some time between April 7 and 11. Should the culprit be apprehended, it is expected he will come clean.

∴ The regular meeting of West Junior P.T.A. will be held on Thursday, April 17. After a short business meeting, there will be community singing and a demonstration of school activities will be given. The new officers installed at the last meeting are: Mrs. Ed Cox, president; Mrs. Helen Caldwell, vice president; Mrs. C. H. Borst, secretary; Mrs. Ed Weller, treasurer and Mrs. Ross Berry, historian.

∴ Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Newby are making improvements in Pioneer Lodge cottage camp at 3221 West Colorado Ave. Cottages are being moved and remodeled and other improvements made. The camp has about 30 cottages besides the main building. It is on Fountain Creek and there are many large trees.

∴ Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Huffman, of 2318 W. Pikes Peak Ave., will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary Friday, April 18. They were united in marriage in the Methodist church, which was originally located south of the railroad in

Colorado City, on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1897. After their marriage, they located on a farm in Pawnee, Kansas, and lived there for 32 years, returning to West Colorado Springs in 1929, where they have resided since.

FIFTY-ONE YEARS AGO Winter 1948

∴ The old log cabin now in Broadmoor, that has been designated as this state's first capitol building for over half a century, still gets into print, with no two views agreeing. There may have been some territorial meetings there. Likely no one living here now knows as much about the historic old building as Edward A. Brown of 3022 West Bijou street, who was born on a ranch south of this city in 1866 and from 1870 to 1877 lived with his parents in the old capitol building in what was later in the 600 block on Colorado avenue. He remembers gathering chips to make a fire in the fireplace. It is almost 49 years, August, 1899, since the writer first knew the old capitol building. For many years Sam Wah, a Chinaman, ran a laundry in the place, the rear, under the hill, being a hop den, which could be smelled on the street a half block. Following a fire, the writer went back into the den. There was a double row of beds on each side of the room, one row on the floor and one above, making accommodations for many smokers at a time. Corn Starr, a city employee, cleaned out the den after the fire. It was a dirty hole. *3/4 Colorado Springs Independent*

∴ The leasing of the old street railway power plant building on West Las Animas street by the Universal Electric company of Michigan, calls to minds of old-timers the happy days of yore, when the street railway was one of the big assets of the Pikes Peak region. It was a wonderful system, as was everything M. S. Stratton had anything to do with. Starting with a short line of horse cars, Mr. Stratton later bought the system. Soon the small cars were replaced by large ones. There were also open sight-seeing cars used in summer to

haul tourists. The fare was five cents, with two fares to Broadmoor, Stratton Park and Manitou Springs. After automobiles got plentiful, small street cars were again used. Later they were abandoned and later busses were used. *3/4 Colorado Springs Independent*

∴ The regular meeting of West Junior High PTA will be held at 7:45 o'clock tonight in the school auditorium. The program will be given by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of West Junior. Girl Scout cookies will be served during the social hour, following the program. The seventh grade Girl Scouts of West Junior, Troop 28, will present a play for the association. "Beth Entertains the Girl Scouts," is the title of the play and the following girls are taking part: Mother, Shirley Silk; Sue, the maid, Dorothy Spann; Beth, Shirley Caldwell; Gay, Joy Hudson; Betty, Lavenes Banta; Mary, Dagmar Meier; Ella, Lucy Ann Conkey; Jean, Norma Adams; Kay, LaPonee Linthleum; Alice, Doris Sewell, Ann, Joan VanGundy; Eleanor, Coralee Stone; Jane, Betty Jean Winkler; Ruth, Shirley Cole; Margaret, Shirley Wiggins; Gladys, Phyllis Nixon; Irene, Shirley Jackson; Babs, Sally Hammond; Gloria, Shirley Silk; Grace, Fay Bishop; Ruby, Patty Bogue; Judy, Nancy Kelly; Marie, LaRue Kruse; Carol, Shirley Strobridge; Lois, Louise Wilkins; May, Dorothy DeWitt; Rosalee, Nancy Bate; Beulah, Laura Derby. *3/18 Colorado Springs Independent*

∴ For over half a century there have been three pioneer Colorado City homes which are still attractive, though the builders long ago departed this life. The houses are built of brick and stone, have been given good care, and are splendid reminders of the old days in the Centennial state's first capital city. They are the A.Z. Sheldon place at 1930 West Colorado avenue; the Anthony Bott former home at 2132 West Colorado Ave. And the C.P. Stockbridge old home at 2801 West Colorado avenue. All three men were active in pioneer days of Colorado City. *3/18 Colorado Springs Independent.*