



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Rocky Mountain Country Christmas

This annual event was held on November 25th in Bancroft Park and the Old Colorado City business district. It was a huge success. The weather was cool but ideal and brought out many people who were ready to get into the Holiday spirit. Tom and Doris Hendrix and Gordon Gray took pictures of Santa and the children in the cabin.

There were many Moms and Dads who wanted their childrens' pictures taken with Ol' St. Nick. During the afternoon and evening, over 200 children visited with Santa. It was a very busy weekend and got the 2000 Holiday Season kicked off in a grand style.

Christmas Ornament

Our Christmas ornament for 2000 is ready for hanging on your tree. This is the third in a collectable series, and this year features the Prospector Statue which stands proudly at the corner of Cimarron and 21st Streets and welcomes motorists to Old Colorado City. The ornaments are of cherry wood and are \$7.50 plus .46 tax. Please drop by the Center and get yours. Mail orders are welcome. (add \$1 for s/h)

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Christmas in Colorado City in the Days of the Pioneer

"Christmas along in the sixties was a day of great gladness to us boys reared in Colorado City," said C.W. Kinsman yesterday.

"True we did not have what boys now get for presents, but the simple things we did get brought just as much joy to our young hearts. I remember once when we hung up our stocking beside the wide fireplace, Santa Claus brought us a big red apple. They were the first we children had ever seen, and I shall never forget its delicious flavor. I think I kept my apple a week to look at before I ate it.

"There was a log church where Rouses's shoe shop now stands and it was there I first saw a Christmas tree. It was lit with tiny red candles and held presents for the boys such as suspenders, neckties and yarn scarfs.

"It was not uncommon for boys to go barefoot in the early days until after Christmas and then sometimes we got a pair of red top boots with copper toes for a present. A boy with red top boots felt that he was almost a millionaire. We always had plenty of buffalo and venison, but one Christmas we had cranberries to eat with them and I though they were the most wonderful fruit in the world. We never knew what an orange or lemon was until after the railroad was built, and as for an overcoat, I never owned one until I was 21 years of age. It was a Christmas present from my parents and I felt very awkward in it."

From a news clipping, circa 1905 - Our Christmas card from Richard Goudie

FROM THE BOARD

The President's Report.....

Happy Holidays everyone. My wife, Becky, and I wish you and your families the best of everything this Holiday Season..

For the Society, this year has been one of many challenges and opportunities. I am pleased with all we have accomplished and this will be outlined in a future issue of the West Word. However, there were many things we did not achieve and this leaves us with a list of things to do in the New Year.

We have mentioned often in this newsletter the Walking Tour Guide the Society is publishing. Unfortu-

nately, this publication will not be delivered to us until sometime in February, 2001. It is an excellent book and I hope you will reserve your copy now so that it can be available to you in February. It will sell for \$9.95 plus tax and shipping. If you wish to reserve a copy, please send me a note. You do not need to remit payment until the book is available.

Leland Feitz's picture book on Colorado Springs is a huge success. We have sold over 100 copies and more are being sold each day. I highly recommend this fine book. For our members and friends out of the city, you can order by mail. See Agnes Johnson's article on page seven which reviews Leland's book.

You will also find an order form for your convenience in ordering.

The Adopt-a-Book program is off to a fine start. We have received two rebound copies and four more are in the process of being restored. Again, please let me know if your want to help preserve our fine collection of City Directories. The cost is \$35 and a book plate will be placed inside the cover recognizing your contribution.

Have a healthy and safe Holiday Season and I look forward to the exciting times in 2001.

Until then,

Gordon

October Treasurer's Report.....

We made some financial progress in October. Largely from the \$628 income from the Cemetery Crawl with no costs, Leland Feitz's generous \$800 contribution from the sale of his new book, and renewed memberships. So, with our cash on hand, income from our Trust accounts, and cash in the Bookstore accounts, we have \$9,710 on hand. A big chunk of this must go toward the final costs of printing 3,000 Historical Guide Books.

Unfortunately, the State Historical Office wants to take their full amount of time reviewing that Guide, so we will not have the book in time to realize substantial Christmas sales from it. We did not get awarded the Federal Museum Grant we applied for last spring in competition with 823 other applicants.

Dave Hughes
Treasurer

TEN REASONS

TO MAKE YOUR CHARITABLE DONATIONS NOW

We know what you're thinking: "With all I have to do for the holiday's you want me to think about my charitable donations now?"

Yes.. And you'll feel better for it, because:

- You'll relieve stress. It will feel good to accomplish at least one of the things you need to do for the holiday.
- You won't have to worry about finding the money after you've finished your holiday shopping.
- You'll be setting a good example.
- You'll be helping your favorite causes get their holiday campaigns off to a good start.
- You'll be happier on April 15, 2001, when you deduct your contributions from your federal taxes.
- January 1, 2001 will be here sooner than you realize. You want to start the new millennium/end the old millennium in good shape.
- You'll be in good company. More than one-third of Americans increase their charitable giving during the month of December.
- You were planning on doing it anyway.

(The above was used with permission from the Village of Skyline, Colorado Springs)

In the next few weeks you will be receiving a special mailing from the Old Colorado City Historical Society about the 2000 Annual Appeal.. We hope that you will seriously consider a year-end contribution to the Society. You support is greatly appreciated and needed in order for us to keep the legacy of Old Colorado City alive.

Thank you in advance.

Lucille Cunningham selected to the..... United Nations *PEOPLE TO PEOPLE AMBASSADOR* Program

In January 2001, the *People to People Ambassador (P2PA) Programs*, a division of the United Nations, will send a delegation of Women Professionals, focusing on "Women in Society", to Cuba. The P2PA program was created by President Dwight D. Eisenhower under the subtitle Unifem. It supports the self-help of women in developing countries.

The visitation to Cuba will allow an opportunity to explore what needs to be accomplished in order to improve the lives of women from the perspectives of women in Cuba and from the United States.

The delegation will convene for a briefing in Nassau, Bahamas on January 12, 2001. The following day the delegation will depart to Havana, then on to Ciego de Avila and Varadero, Cuba. Lucille D. Cunningham of Colorado Springs, Colorado, was chosen as a delegate for her business expertise, ability to creatively solve problems, her leadership and people skills, and her integrity. She has done a number of things for the community.

Lucille has served as president of many organizations: the Teacher's Organization and a homemakers' organization in Wayne, Nebraska, the Association of University Women, the Old Colorado City Historical Society, and the Organization of Lutheran Women. She has also served on several Boards of Directors; including the Billie Spielman Center, and the First Financial Cooperative. She served as a Republican Committee woman in Wayne, NE.

Lucille was the producer and writer of "Women and the Law", a 1953 program featured on a Sioux City, Iowa television station.

Lucille graduated from the Wayne State College with a Bachelor of Arts in Education, graduating Cum Laude, and was elected to membership in Kappa Delta Pi, the National Honor Society in Education. She received her Master of Science degree in Special Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, during which time she developed the entire reading program (grades' 1-12) in the Blair Public Schools including the Gifted Child's Program. She gave a number of reading presentations; including one at the State Reading Convention in Omaha, Nebraska.



Lucille was profiled in *Who's Who in Finance and Industry* in 1987. She was presented Gazette Telegraph's "A Woman Who Makes A difference" award in 1988 as well as recognition in *Who's Who Among Women*. In 1989, she was featured in *Money Magazine*. In 1997, she was awarded a KKTV *Kindness Award* by then Mayor Leon Young. In 1999, Lucille received the *Luther McKnight Award* for her work at the Old Colorado City History Center.

Lucille's philosophy is "One person can make a difference." Currently, she is helping revitalize Colorado Avenue on the Westside of Colorado Springs via the West One Group, an investment real estate firm owned and operated by her and her son.

CONGRATULATIONS, LUCILLE!!!

Welcome --New Members

Please welcome the following as new members to OCCHS. We are pleased you have joined our Society.

Nadine Gilman
1608 Pinon Glen Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
(719) 363-6661
(President's Challenge new member by Bev Disch)

Dick & Nancy Langstaff
3545 Club Heights Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
(719) 576-2723
(President's Challenge new member by Bev Disch)

James D. Rogers
637 Paradise Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
(719) 473-5185

Ola Hayes Clarke
2815 Freewood Pt. #8
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
(719) 278-9125
(President's Challenge new member by Gordon Gray)

LOUISE GECKLER KOCH lived and owned business property in Colorado City, now known as Old Colorado City.

At the third annual Old Colorado City Fairview Cemetery Crawl held in September, 2000, guest, Catherine Fertig Parris, was surprised that her grandfather's first cousin, Louise, was being portrayed.

Because of Louise's close association with Old Colorado City, Catherine's mother, Mary East Fertig, Louise's first cousin, has given OCCHS Louise's genealogy, her lined lace umbrella with a bamboo handle, photographs, and other information.

Louise was born Myrtle Louise Geckler in Indiana in 1876. Her father died when she was three years old. Her mother, Martha Dixon Geckler, was a teacher, and Louise became a teacher also.

Louise came to Colorado Springs in 1901. She divorced her photographer husband, John Wilson Jenkins, in 1909, on grounds of nonsupport. Two years later, she married Ferdinand F. Koch, pronounced "Cook". From then on, her friends tended to call her Kochie. They lived at 26th Street and Pikes Peak Avenue, and owned and operated a drugstore, one of three in the area, at 2506 West Colorado Avenue. Ferd was a strict observer of liquor and narcotic

laws, and would not handle tobacco. He was a member of the Westside Commercial Club, and President of the Colorado State Pharmaceutical Association.

Ferd died in 1928, and Louise moved next door to her mother in Bear Creek Canon where she painted, wrote poetry, and grew roses on a trellis at her gate. Despite an inexplicable marriage to W. A. Love in 1932, she lived as Louise G. Koch in Bear Creek Canon the rest of her life, until her death in 1961.



Louise Geckler at a young age.
Photo: Martha Curry



Louise Geckler Koch as a young Lady.
Photo: Martha Curry



Martha Curry portraying Louise Koch at the OCCHS Cemetery Crawl.
Photo: G.Gray

Martha Louise Richardson Curry portrays Louise Koch at the OCCHS Fairview Cemetery Crawl because Louise was a friend of all four of her grandparents, her parents met at Louise's home, and she is named after Louise and her mother Martha. Martha Curry has lived in Bear Creek Canon for 49 years.

WEST SIDE MEMORIES (CONTD. FROM PAGE 6)

Cahn, Willet R. Willis, Dr. E. L. Timmons, Cecil H. Graves, Mrs. Edward L. Kernochan, Miss Billie Bennett, O. A. Reese, H. E. Mathias, Robert D. Wilfley, Willard Wulff, George M. White, Ralph Monell and Leonard Sutton. Not present, but suggested as charter members, were William E. Davis, Sigfrid Gross, Arthur Roe, Edward Over and Frank Young. Willard Wulff will give a short history of the society and will introduce the early members and past presidents. Robert Chadbourne will give a five-minute talk on "Fluorite" and specimens will be exhibited. Light refreshments will be served.

(Independent 12/7)

HOUSE OF THE WEEK--(we wish we could show the picture, too) Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Dyck are the owners of the fine new home built for them by Leonard Dittmore, contractor. The house, located at 1723 W. Kiowa St., was designed by J. B. Pahls. The main floor has a living room-dining room combination with fireplace, bath, three bedrooms and kitchen with dinette space. In the full basement is a recreation room, extra

bedroom, cedar closet and laundry room. A one-car garage is attached to the house. Building supplies were furnished by Newton Lumber Co. And The Weller Lumber Co. The plumbing was done by H. Dale Miller, and A. L. Ingwerson installed the heating system. The wiring was done by The Whitney Electric Co., and Wayne Keller did the plastering. West End Furniture Co. Supplied and laid the linoleum and carpeting. The draperies were made and hung by French and Co.

(Independent 12/23)

Members of the fire department had plenty of kitchen bosses Friday evening as they prepared the food for the annual Christmas part for members of the department and their families in the lounge of the City auditorium. Chief Fred Lausch, B. W. Wilson and Roger Fay, got the once-over from Tommy Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Johnson; Timmy Trisler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Trisler, and Sandra Jo Cherry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cherry, and Kristin and Margo Wilson.

(Independent 12/23)

West Side Memories are compiled by: Jan Knox

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

One Hundred and Twenty-Five Years Ago—1875

Attention, Sportsmen!

There will be a grand shoot on Christmas morning, at 9:30 o'clock, in the open grounds north of the town of Colorado Springs. First match—100, 200, 300 yards; 4 inch, 8 inch, and 12 inch bulls' eyes, respectively. One and two hundred yards—"off hand;" three hundred yards—"body rest." Entrance fee, \$1. Second match—500 yards, "body rest," any sights. Entrance fee, \$3. 4 prizes for 1st match; 2 prizes for 2nd match. All entries are requested to be in by the 20th. Lists can be found at Chas. Stockbridge's, Colorado City, and with W. B. Sherman, at the office of A. H. Barrett. Hunters are requested to come in and take a shot with us, as the matches are open to all. (*Gazette* 12/11)

Saturday afternoon, last, there was a game of baseball on Alamo Square, between the "College Boys" nine and a picked nine of local citizens. The former won the game by a score of 29 - 11. (*Gazette* 12/11)

Our Colorado Springs Cornet Band, accompanied by a number of the members of Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1, under the marshalship of Foreman Barnham, tendered the compliment of a serenade to some of their friends last Saturday night. The improvement in this band of late, is something remarkable. Their repertoire embraces some very difficult music, which they render skillfully and acceptably. In our opinion this band is the best in Colorado, and we trust it will meet with encouragement from our citizens. (*Gazette* 12/18)

Owing to the entertainment at the City Hall on Tuesday evening last, the regular meeting of the Colorado Springs Fire Co. No. 1 was postponed to next Tuesday evening, when a full attendance is requested, as business of importance will come before the meeting, including the election of officers for the ensuing year. (*Gazette* 12/18)

Seventy-five Years Ago—1925

A committee of members of the West Side Commercial Club, composed of George McDonald, Frank Priess, Jack Nelson and Elliott Williams raised over one hundred dollars by popular subscription Tuesday and Wednesday for the decorating of two blocks on Colorado Avenue, between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-sixth streets, for the holidays. The work is being done by P. P. Scott, who has completed the decorations over town. The West Side decorations are like those over town, which are quite elaborate. There is a 36-inch copper colored bell suspended over the traffic wart at Twenty-fifth street, with much evergreens, festoons and other greenery suspended from the poles and wires in the two blocks. The West Side has taken on real holiday attire, which it will sport until after New Year's.

(*Independent* 12/10)

West Junior High's Christmas offering to the West Side citizens will be a Christmas mystery play, presented free of charge on the nights of December 20, 21, and 22. Christmas carols will also be a feature of the entertainment. (*Independent* 12/10)

About five hundred girls and boys from the three Junior High schools will sing at the Christmas service in the auditorium, December 20 at 4 p.m. The girls' glee clubs from the same schools will march in a very effective processional. This service will be free of charge and everyone is invited to attend. (*Independent* 12/10)

Fifty Years Ago—1950

Five Hundred and fifty guests of the Golden Cycle corporation gathered Saturday night at a Christmas party in the new Carlton mill, which will open a new era in the Gold Camp when it starts operation soon. Guests were show through the mill, and were served a turkey dinner by the mill and mine officials. Donning white aprons for the occasion were Bob Welch, in charge of

construction of the mill; Charles Carlton, in charge of the Golden Cycle corporation's mining operations in Cripple Creek district; Howard Keil, superintendent of the new mill; Wesley Moulton, superintendent of the Cresson mine; Alfred Bebee, Jr., superintendent of the Vindicator mine. Merrill Shoup, president of the Golden Cycle corporation, and Max Bowen, Golden Cycle vice president and general manager, gave brief talks and acted as guides about the new mill. Other Golden Cycle representatives at the dinner included: Mrs. Ethel Carlton, wife of the founder of the Carlton interests and a director in the Golden Cycle corporation; Mrs. A. C. Magruder, and Harold Worcester, assistant manager of the Golden Cycle mining interests.

(*Independent* 12/24)

Mrs. Elizabeth Brock, wife of John B. Brock, 3632 W. Colorado Ave., died Saturday at a local hospital after a brief illness. Mrs. Brock was born March 14, 1901, in Superollo, Italy, and she and Mr. Brock were married in Post-Leugraffe, Lot et Gerrom, France. They came to the United States in 1928, going to Illinois, and came to Woodland Park in 1934. They have been residents of Colorado Springs since 1942 and have operated the Adams Crossing grocery store. Mrs. Brock was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church. Mrs. Brock besides her husband, leaves a son John V. Brock, and two daughters, Enes Louise and Dolores Joanne, all of Colorado Springs and her mother and four sisters in France. (*Independent* 12/24)

The Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society will honor its founders and past presidents will be introduced at a meeting at 8 p.m. Friday at the IUXL assembly rooms, 810 S. Cascade Ave. Dr. Richard Pearl, newly elected president of the organization will take office at that time. The society was organized November 24, 1936, and the following were the charter members: Lazard

(continued on page 5)

From the Bookstore

It was unfortunate that due to the holiday the West Word for October did not arrive in time to notify the members that Leland Feitz would be signing his new book at the October OCCHS meeting. The November issue arrived in time, and Leland was present at the November meeting to sign his new book.

It would be a pity not to have his signature on his latest wonderful book "A Pictorial History of Colorado Springs—120 Rare Photos."

Two paragraphs on the back cover explain the philosophy of this book. They read: "If you have a passion for old photographs, if you enjoy history in small doses, laced with a bit of humor, you will love this book. You might even learn a thing or two about Colorado's second biggest city."

And love it I DO!

The two-page introduction explains that the book is not a complete history of Colorado Springs. There are some suggestions from the author on how to use the book to the best advantage. The ideas are excellent and I promptly used them.

Under each photo is a explanation of the location, name of the building or history associated with the picture. Always clear, concise and informative, this book rivals "Colorado Then and Now" by John Fielder for the photos and comments.

Another title for the book might have been, "Colorado Springs—Then and 80 Years Later", for that is the time frame of this book.

Also, it is so much easier to hold! Lest you think the photos are only of Colorado Springs, Old Colorado City is pictured from page 41 through 50. Some never seen before are from the Center's own collection and Leland gives much credit to the Old Colorado City History Center and its picture is on the back cover.

This is a book to pick up time and again and as Leland says, "Enjoy and not be in a hurry." His wise selection of photos makes a truly remarkable history through the eighty years.

What a wonderful gift for birthdays, Christmas or for your own library.

Since I love old photos, from the time of Grandfather's stereopticon which I used to use, I have always been fascinated by history whether in small or large doses. Since I hope I still have some small vestige of humor, I think this is an outstanding book.

Hats off to Leland! Another *smash* hit!

ORDER LELAND'S BOOK— Mail your request to: OCCHS, 1 S. 24th Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904 Attn: G. Gray

Book	\$ 6.95	(\$6.25 discount to OCCHS members)
Tax	.42	.38 (Colorado residents only)
Shipping/handling	2.75	Amount enclosed: _____ for # __ book(s)

Please make your check payable to OCCHS

Credit card orders accepted: Visa _____ MC _____
Account number _____
Expiration date: _____
Card Holders signature _____

Mail Book To: Name _____
Address _____
City, State, ZIP _____
Telephone Number: () _____

Ruby Mountain Country Christmas



Pictures With Santa Holiday Season 2000

Pictures with Santa in the Cabin
Bancroft Park
Each Saturday beginning
November 25th thru December 23rd

Please support this OCCHS event



The Beautiful 2000 Christmas Tree
which creates the Holiday Spirit in
the Center—

Courtesy of Kris Kringle Shop
(Kathy Hruban – OCCHS member)