



My Brother...Leonard Dittimore

Editors note: This article was submitted OCCHS member, Gordon Dittimore in response to a West Wise Memories article in the December 2000 West Word ...an excerpt is printed below.

"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 Dittimore, contractor..."

My brother, Leonard Dean Dittimore was born on February 7, 1905. His mother was Daisy Dean Onstott. Daisy and my father married February 24, 1904. Daisy died after childbirth February 13, 1905.

My brother initially grew up on my dad's first ranch in Elbert but he grew up in Colorado Springs and spent some of his youth with his relatives in Missouri. My father purchased our home at 3156 W. Pikes Peak in 1918, thus making us legitimate westsiders.

Leonard, being 20 years older than I, was like a second father to me. My first memory of him was when he came back from visiting his relatives in Missouri in the late 1920s. He was driving a Hupmobile and for excitement, he let me hold on for dear life on a rear luggage rack as he drove pell mell from our home on the westside up to Manitou and back.

My father also had two ranches near Lake George on the road to 11 Mile reservoir. As a result, we spent many joyful times between both locations. My father in the early 1920s built a log cabin for my brother, which still stands above the ranch house. At the time he was studying radio and the electrical field.

Leonard bought a sawmill in 1935. It was driven by a Case steam engine. Our sawmill was located near a meadow on our ranch. At one time in the early 1900s, someone cut down a large stand of pine trees and let them lay. We were given permission by the Forest Service to mill the logs. We proceeded to run the mill and produced lumber and railroad ties.

In about 1938, a man by the name of C. E. Stevenson, bought the land surrounding Lake George on the South Platte. My brother was given the job of supervising the repair/rebuilding of a large washout zone of the old Lake George earth fill dam, building a new spillway to accommodate the predicted floods, plus building many fish ponds and roads along with building access to the new home sites, lots, and building a water supply. They tried a 60-foot-deep hand dug well but it was insufficient to supply the demand, so they located the pump near a sandy part of the lake. In the winter time, due to freezing, the water supply was shut off and water was hauled to each home.

Leonard built most of the homes at Lake George. Many of them were built using hand-pealed white pine logs recovered

from a local forest fire. He provided jobs for many workers.

During winter when Lake George froze to sufficient depth, he would crank up a bulldozer and scrape the ice for ice skating and for tobogganing down the hillside and zipping across the lake.

Leonard was an avid sportsman. He would always provide us elk, venison, and duck in the winter season, cottontails in the spring and trout in the summer.

When World War II began, my brother joined the Navy Seabees. He was shipping out of Seattle, WA, when a girlfriend Carrie Nixon, followed him and they were married.

Leonard was sent to Dutch Harbor in Alaska. They then were sent to the Aleutians to drive out the Japanese. As the Seabees were among the first to arrive, they encountered extreme cold. Eventually my brother's feet froze and he was sent to Yosemite, CA for recovery. On partial recovery he was stationed at Alameda Naval Air Station near Oakland and assigned German prisoners to supervise until the War was over.

After the War, Leonard obtained a contractors license and built many Colorado Springs homes, as well as homes in Lake George, Cascade and Chipita Park. He built his last home, located at the north side of the Fountain Creek, where Ute Pass emerges into Cascade. During the summers after the War, I would work for my brother in home design, surveying, electrical wiring and dynamiting the granite for foundations and tracking all labor costs plus handling the payroll. At one time, we had five labor intensive homes under construction. Many of his homes were written about in mountain home magazines.

I graduated in 1948 from USC and went to work for the US Department of the Interior Shasta Dam, then in Chico, CA. On September 6, 1951, Leonard was killed in a car accident in Lake George. He is buried with veterans of WW II in the Colorado Springs Memorial Park Cemetery.



Gordon Dittimore (left) standing in front of Lake George home built by Leonard Dittimore (right) Date: c 1930 photo: Gordon Dittimore

FROM THE BOARD

President's Report

Another busy month around the History Center. The Board hosted a reception for the West Side Innkeepers to thank them for the successful B&B tour in December. This was the sixth tour and the innkeepers donated over \$2,100 to the Historical Society. Karla Hefferan and Betty Baker are already planning for the 2001 Tour. Stay tuned for new and exciting news about this tour.

Our Exhibits Committee (Liz and Tommie) have just completed another fine exhibit in the Museum. This features the Prospector Statue that stands on the corner of Cimarron and 21st Street. The sculptor, Cloyd Barnes, donated to the Society the clay molds of the heads of the prospector and the horse. These are on display along with many items that were used to produce the final product. There are many pictures and a video of the sculpture in progress. We will

have pictures of this fine exhibit in an upcoming West Word. If you are local, plan on visiting the museum in the near future.

On page eight of this newsletter you will find an article about the forthcoming walking tour guide book. It is in the final stages of review and it should be at the printer in the very near future. This is an outstanding publication and I know that you will want one for your personal collection and also several to give as gifts to your friends and relatives. Please plan on reserving your copies now by calling the center. We will also have a mail order form in the March West Word. I want to thank Cathleen Norman, the author, for her fine work on this book and also Don Ellis, who served as the Project Manager from our organization. Many hours were spent in making sure this was an outstanding publication of historical significance.

My thanks also to the many volunteers who assisted on the project.

On page four you will see that we are looking for additional volunteers to help us in several areas. If you are interested in any of these, please give Jane Colvard or me a call. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Another year is behind us. Many things went on in 2000 that kept everyone busy. I am pleased with the commitment and involvement of the OCCHS Board of Directors. This group of people give the Society their time and talents to insure a successful operation. My thanks to each one of them. You will see in Dave Hughes' report that we ended the year in a positive financial position. Financial details on the 2001 budget will be provided in the March newsletter.

Until next month,

Gordon

Treasurer's Report.....

The Historical Society got through the year 2000 without any general grants and much better financially than some members predicted.

Sound and timely decisions by the Board, and careful management of our financial operations let us end the year in a sound position. The year can be summarized as follows:

	<u>1/1/2000</u>	<u>12/31/2000</u>
Endowment fund	\$ 60,750	\$ 61,330
Cash on hand	13,259	11,979
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Gross revenue	43,135	40,025
Cost of revenue	23,900	17,257
Profit	19,235	22,768
Project & building expense	10,025	9,102
Operating expense	11,250	13,154
Year 2000 surplus over budget		512

I will present the 2001 budget in the March newsletter.

Dave Hughes

Can You Help???

The following e-mail was received in early December. If you can help find the owner of the item mentioned, please give Jane Colvard a call (636-1225)

From: Sheryl A. Palmer

To: Old Colorado City Historical Society

Subject: Found a metal OCCH

Dear History Buffs,

My name is Sheryl Palmer and I lived in Cedar Heights (2775 Black Canyon) until 1996. I then moved to California. Last week while cleaning out the inside of my couch, I found a silver medal down inside the couch. It has an angel on one side and the other side says, "ANGELS SHALL GUARD THEE" OCCH. I went to the internet and found your website. It would have been lost between 1991-1996 when I lived in Colorado Springs. Could you contact your members and ask if they know who might have lost this medal? I would love to return it to the owner.

Sun Chime Players

The Sun Chime Players, a bell choir from the Washington Elementary School, made their debut at the History Center on Sunday, December 3, 2000. This was a part of the annual Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour. The group of 4th and 5th graders under the direction of their teacher/director, Carolyn Cokes, provided musical entertainment for the tour reception. The choir consisted of: April Kenyon, Kacey Peters, Lindsay Flagg, Cheyenne Billadeau, Chris Davis, Brittany Perkinson, Angelique White, Brittany Yungkin, Matthew Ingram and Meredith Green.

A thank you again from OCCHS to this fine group of musicians for entertaining us during the Holiday Season.



Welcome — New Members

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

Tom & Lee Gray
Gray's Avenue Hotel
711 Manitou Avenue
Manitou Springs, CO 80829 719-685-1277

Suzanne Schutt
1306 Wood Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Elizabeth (Betty) Grout
P.O. Box 2000
Woodland Park, CO 80866 719-687-3513

Eunice Quirm
1001 Bonfoy
Colorado Springs, CO 80909 719-633-2947

James & Suzanne Marvin
3725 Chataway Court
Colorado Springs, CO 80906 719-633-1638

From the Bookstore

(Continued from page 7)

There are many more developers with plans for railroads, hotels and linking the Crystal Park Road with Bear Creek Canyon Road.

Through various owners the land finally became original owners once again. Lee R. Weeks became the director of Crystal Park Community Inc. Weeks and his associates wanted to preserve the Park by establishing a private, exclusive, Christian Club, encompassing 2,000 acres of land. Individuals own houses but not the land when they buy into the Club. In October 1975, historic Crystal Park was dedicated to God and on page 47 there is a photo of the sign near the entrance gate. The sign reads, "This magnificent 2,000 acres dedicated to the living God and his people." There are many photos from the Pikes Peak Library District and some more recent by Paul Idleman.

This is truly a well-researched book that I found most informative and interesting, and pleased that the history and people of Crystal Hills were well documented. I highly recommend it for history buffs. Also, check the carousels...there are LOTS of good books on the racks.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help is needed in several areas and if you have an interest, please give Gordon Gray or Jane Colvard a call at the Center (719-636-1225)

Archives

Need volunteers to complete final accession process on photograph and manuscript collections. Hands-on procedures will involve quite a bit of writing.

Need skilled or interested people in data entry to enter accession and description information into the FileMaker Pro System.

Need volunteers to gather information for vertical subject files. Check Gazette and westside newspapers for current and historical information pertaining to the Westside and Colorado Springs in general.

Artifacts

Need volunteers on initial processing, stabilization, and identification of artifact collection.

Newsletter

Need a volunteer(s) to copy and staple the West Word each month. This is done on the copier at the Center and takes about 4-5 hours.

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

One Hundred and Twenty-five Years Ago

February, 1876

A stage driver between Fairplay and Colorado Springs, named A. W. Ellis, alias James Wood, early in October last absconded with a package of \$4,200 that was being sent to a banker at Fairplay, from the First National Bank of this city. The case was given into the hands of Mr. Lewis E. Thaw, of Colorado Springs, who started in pursuit of Ellis, and trailed him through Arizona, New Mexico, and to the borders of Old Mexico, where the trail was lost. Thaw returned, but soon after learned that Ellis was in Texas. Thaw visited Denver on the 3rd of January, and after laying the case before Governor Routt, obtained a requisition upon the Governor of Texas. On the morning following, Thaw left on the K.P. train, and last night returned with his prisoner, after having followed the scamp through Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Tennessee, and clutching him finally at a river landing in Mississippi. When found, Ellis was fortified with a small arsenal, consisting of two revolvers and a knife, and was plying the calling of a horse trader. The sheriff of the county secured the prisoner by seizing Ellis around the arms, after which Thaw stepped up and read the warrant for the arrest. About half of the missing money was subsequently recovered in property. On yesterday morning, a hearing was had before Justice Sayer. Ellis was discharged on the Colorado Springs warrant, but was immediately re-arrested on a warrant issued by Justice Sayer. Mr. Thaw arrived at Colorado Springs, with his prisoner, on Thursday. He has proved himself to be so good a detective

that we suggest to our Town Trustees his employment to hunt out the parties who seem to take pleasure in getting our firemen out at night.

2/5 C. S. Gazette

The entertainment given by the Colored Dramatic Troupe on Wednesday evening, for the benefit of the African M. E. Church, brought together the largest audience that was ever gathered in the City Hall. Every nook and corner was crammed, jammed, full of people. A great many of the performances were greeted with loud applause and hearty laughter, the best sign that the audience was pleased. Mr. R. B. Madison, the manager of the troupe, has evidently "been there" before, and would make a respectable minstrel performer anywhere. The balance of the company were amateurs, but did very well for their first appearance. The entertainment consisted of songs, banjo playing, and comic plays, with "De Prayer Meeting at Brudder Mose's" for the closing piece. This was the best of the entire performance, and sent the audience home in royal good humor.

2/5 C. S. Gazette

OUR TOWN CLOCK--This great public convenience, ordered some time ago, has arrived, and been set up in the cupola of the public school on Cascade avenue. The four dials showing the time, face north, south, east, and west, and no one of our citizens, devoid of a time-piece, need be at a loss any more, as to the exact time of day. The clock cost, delivered in Colorado Springs, with striking works complete, \$670.00. Its total weight is over 1,500 pounds. A suitable bell would weigh about 2,500

pounds, and cost \$1,000, but it is not proposed to buy one at present.

2/5 C. S. Gazette

THE UTE PASS--This passage way or road through the mountains formed by Nature but utilized and improved by a large expenditure of labor and money is daily growing in importance and becoming a great thoroughfare. The railroad arrangement consummated within the week by which merchandise is now and will hereafter be delivered in Colorado Springs from the East by way of Pueblo at the same rates that the same classes of merchandise are delivered from the East in Denver, gives our town a great advantage over our older and more populous neighbor. Wagons engaged in moving supplies to the mining districts, will haul goods from Colorado Springs to Lake City, Silverton, Fairplay, Alma, Granite, Chalk Creek and points south and west of us at *twenty-five cents less per hundred pounds* than they will haul the same goods from Denver to the same localities. So that our merchants have *five dollars per ton* the advantage, and with proper energy, enterprise and effort, they can make this advantage tell on the trade and commercial importance and prosperity of our town. We trust that they are considering this and increasing their stock, heretofore quite heavy, and lessening their profits, so to increase their sales and press competition. That was a wise expenditure of money which improved this natural highway and it will be well for our authorities to consider the matter of a still further expenditure and improvement. 2/12 C. S. Gazette

(continued on page 6)

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

(continued from page 5)

Messrs. James Clelland, George Rand, and J. A. McShane, Special Committee appointed to examine the Penitentiary at Canon City, report to the Council and House of Representatives, that on the 18th of January, 1876, they visited the penitentiary, were received by B. F. Allen, esq., the Warden. They found no convicts engaged in cutting stone in the prison yard; 4 or 5 engaged in cooking for the prisoners. They found everything neat, clean, orderly, and well arranged. There are 40 cells occupying the center of the building. All the convicts were well and robust, not one being under medical treatment. The number now confined in the penitentiary is 71, and 9 beside, sent from other counties, are confined in the county jail, there being no room for them in the Territorial prison. As the prison does not furnish accommodations for the needs of the Territory, 71 being crowded into cells only intended to accommodate 40, the Committee recommended an enlargement of the penitentiary at an early day, which could be done by prison labor with comparatively small expense, and they estimate the cost of material to enlarge the prison 105 by 46 feet, providing an addition of 60 cells, at \$5,9398.10, and they recommend an appropriation for this much needed improvement.

2/12 C. S. Gazette

Seventy-five Years Ago February 1926

The new boys' dormitory that is to be built at the Myron Stratton home will be staked out this morning. Work will be started immediately. The next improvement after this is to be the construction of a like building as an additional dormitory for girls. It is not unlikely that it may be built this year also, making the year one of the most active in new construction that the home has ever had. The large reservoir at the home, which is passed as the home is approached by electric car line has been drained and repairs are being made in it so that it will be in first class condition when spring rains refill it.

2/2 C. S. Gazette

New uniforms for the High School band have been received by the Perkins-Shearer company and are now on display in their windows. The suits and caps of the uniforms are the same style as those worn by members of Sousa's band. The articles were manufactured by the M. C. Lilley company, makers of finest grade uniforms, and the entire outfit was furnished by the Perkins-Shearer company at cost. Because the suits were made in January, which comes during the quiet season in the

textile industry, a special discount was made by the manufacturer. In appreciation for the order, the M. C. Lilley company presented the band with a handsome baton.

2/2 C. S. Gazette

Development of the Dixon ranch tract--an area of 330 acres including some of the most beautiful country in the Pikes Peak region--purchased along with the Ferguson and Johnson subdivisions which are now known as Count Pourtales and Polo park, respectively, is now engaging the attention of those in charge of the \$1,000,000 Broadmoor development project launched last year by Spencer Penrose and his associates. The Dixon ranch, formerly owned by Mrs. Florence P. Dixon of Broadmoor, extends from Dixon avenue at a point adjoining El Pomar south into the slopes of Cheyenne mountain. Virtually all the Dixon holdings are west of the present golf course. James Dawson of Olmstead brothers of Brookline, Mass., nationally known architects, is preparing plans for the Dixon ranch development but these have not been returned here yet. In the meantime, a large number of lots have been sold in both the Count Pourtales and Polo park additions. Final disposition of the Dixon ranch property is awaiting the return of Mr. Penrose, who, it is understood, plans to retain only about 15 acres for his own use as an addition to El Pomar, his Broadmoor home.

2/2 C. S. Gazette

The first of what is to be a series of monthly social affairs at the Myron Stratton home was held last Saturday night. It was for employees of the Stratton estate interests and their families. Street car men who were not on duty and their families attended, as did the children and the old folks at the home. The entertainment was a moving picture show and vaudeville program in the auditorium, which has a seating capacity of more than 700 persons. Lou Fink's orchestra provided the music, and Mr. Fink himself put on some of the vaudeville acts. This was the first entertainment of the kind that has ever been given at the home. It was very successful.

2/2 C. S. Gazette

Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region will be extensively advertised in publicity of the Pikes Peak Ocean-to-Ocean Highway association this year with an expected result that tourist travel over this route, upon which the Pikes Peak region is the principal scenic point, will be tremendously increased, according to J. D. Judson of St. Joseph, Mo., general manager, who was in Colorado Springs yesterday conferring with E.E. Jackson, of the Chamber of Commerce.

2/4 C. S. Gazette

West Side Memories are compiled by Jan Knox

From the Bookstore

By: Agnes Johnson

As I was browsing through the carousels at the bookstore wondering what book I could read for this column, a booklet's title jogged a memory.

The title of the booklet was "Crystal Park, the Gem of Pikes Peak" written by Ivan W. Brunk.

Here was one of the successful pioneer developments still viable today when other settlements or hotels at Minnehaka, Lake Moraine, and Jones Park, to list a few, have all disappeared.

This booklet is a veritable treasure of information on a little known section of the west side. We are caught up in the discussion of Red Rock Canyon. The many quartz and crystals found in that area give Crystal Park its name. On page 59 is a section called "Crystal Park Minerals" and on page 60 is a photo of a large topaz crystal found in 1934. This book was written in 1990. The author gives the early history of the area and the people involved in the development of Crystal Park.

First is a list of homesteaders and an account of the first person to settle there around 1875 who was Robert Richens. A gate at the entrance kept cattle in and later became a toll gate. In 1874, the Colorado Springs Company issued a map showing "Plan of the Villa Sites, Mineral Springs and Pleasure Grounds of Manitou, near Colorado Springs," using the name Crystal Park. Sound familiar? The terminology hasn't changed much from present day developers.

The author furnishes a list of the first homesteaders, and describes the terrain, the buildings, and how the land was used. He describes the Tom Wanless era and "began what might be called the hill years." On page 13 is a map showing "original Patents from U.S. Government, the names of owners, acres, and date of purchase." This extends from 1882 to May 1923.

The author mentions a "Heddin Cabin" and there are photos of the noted evangelist, Bill Sunday, at that location. Another well known resident was Edson Persall, one of the authors of "The Life of Abraham Lincoln," who spent his summers at his cabin while writing the book.

The trials and tribulations of Miss Lisle Harris in establishing a homestead there is astonishing. You'll be amazed at her spunk and courage, in the face of extreme harassment.

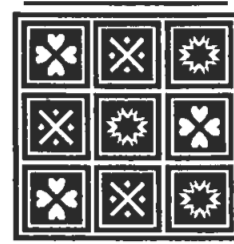
The Crystal Park Company built a road that Robert Ripley called "the crookedest road in North America." At one point it was not possible to construct a turn, so a turntable was built. There is a picture of the large touring car on the turnstile. The passengers dismounted, and pushed the vehicle around!

Read about the controversy of the notion of a Texas State Park for Texans only and how the Colorado Legislature met this issue. I wonder if it is still on the books?

(continued on page 4)

OCCHS February Program Friday, February 9, 2001

The OCCHS Monthly program will be given by Lois Jackson from Colorado Springs. Ms. Jackson teaches quilting and will present a program entitled, "Family Quilts."



This presentation will be very interesting and informative. Please make your plans now to attend. The meeting will be at the History Center. The social hour and refreshments will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the program at 11 a.m.

February Meeting Luncheon

REMINDER - REMINDER - REMINDER

Arrangements have been made with the Front Range Barbeque Restaurant for lunch after the February OCCHS monthly meeting. The restaurant is located across the parking lot from the History Center. A sample platter/drink will be \$6 plus tax.

If you are interested in joining us for lunch after the program, please let Karla Hefferan know by Tuesday, February 6th. You can contact Karla at 630-8241.

The lunch has been set up by Karla in response to input from our recent membership questionnaire. Many members expressed the desire to have lunch after the monthly meeting. If it is well received we will make plans to continue the lunches each month.

Old Colorado City Walking Tour

In and Around Old Colorado City is expected to be on sale in April. The long-awaited publication takes the reader on walking tours through the Colorado Avenue Commercial District and several historic neighborhoods. The abundantly illustrated book provides insight into Old Colorado City's lively past —from its pioneer beginnings and turn-of-the-century role as railroad hub and gold milling center, through the tourism era that continues today. It identifies the architectural styles and describes historic residents of numerous historic homes and buildings. And it details aspects of Colorado City's fascinating story, such as the stone quarries, streetcar suburbs, "cure porches," Chicago Houses, and Tourist Homes.

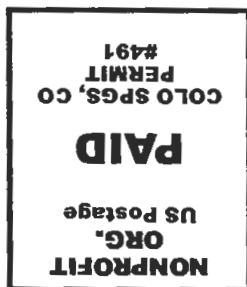
The project was launched by OCCHS to raise funds and to inform residents about their historic neighborhoods. A donation from the Westside Bed & Breakfast Innkeepers and a grant from the State Historic Fund financed the project. Proceeds from book sales go towards OCCHS programs and projects. Board member Don Ellis assisted in selecting tour routes, reviewed manuscript drafts and coordinated the project.

Author Cathleen Norman will be providing a presentation about the book and the process of putting it together at special meeting in May. She also is leading a tour of Old Colorado City and its most historic places on May 19 for the Colorado Historical Society. For more information, contact her at (303) 985-2599 or Gordon Gray at (719) 630-8238.

Reserve your copy of this book by calling the Center (636-1225) and ask that your name be put on the book reservation list. If you want the book mailed to you please send your check for \$9.95 (plus \$3.00 s/h) to the Center

Schedule of Events

- February 9—OCCHS monthly meeting at the History Center.
 - 10 a.m. Refreshments
 - 11 a.m. Lois Johnson—*Family Quilts*
 - Noon—Lunch at the Front Range Barbeque
- March 9—OCCHS monthly meeting at the History Center
 - 10 a.m. Refreshments
 - 11 a.m. Program —TBD
- April 13—OCCHS monthly meeting at the History Center
 - 10 a.m. Refreshments
 - 11 a.m. Celinda Reynolds Kaelin
The Ute Indians
- May 11—Annual OCCHS meeting at the History Center
 - 10:00 a.m. Refreshments
 - 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting
- May ? - Cathleen Norman presentation on the new Walking Tour Book



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