

December 13, 1985

Members Hear a Book Review Recreating Experiences of an Early Woman Settler

At our November meeting Kay Arnold introduced us to a woman who defied social conventions of her day as a pioneer settler of Colorado City.

The major character in the fictional account of this area's settlement is Sarah Elizabeth, whose name is the title of a book just published, authored by Jackie Masters, former partner in Peerless Printing and the Kinnikinnik Book Store.

The book opens with Sarah Elizabeth Smith Deweese's decision to let the west-bound wagon train go on without her. She subsequently takes up with another family and finds herself the third woman in brand new Colorado City.

The other two women in town, madame Laura Belle and hotel-keeper Lucy Maggard, her "bad penny" husband and new-found friends John French and John Mitchell, the self-appointed guardian of local morals Sam Beach, and especially two young children who become her wards, influence her life as she establishes an early general store. She also learns from, and shares friendships with, Chief Ouray and Chipita of the Utes.

Mrs. Arnold says "the characters are nicely drawn," and the novel demonstrates the attitude of native people in their earliest contacts with the first white settlers. The book follows Sarah Elizabeth to her torturous but noble death.

Important historical events fall in the period of the novel, including the meeting of the Territorial Legislature, the battle of Glorietta Pass and the Sand Creek Massacre. Fictional characters are blended into these events. The author offers her own idea why the legislature decided not to remain here—blaming an individual who felt the town would be better off if it were not the capital!

Society Endorses Sarah Elizabeth's Introduction

O.C.C.H.S. members voted to co-sponsor with the Westside Kinnikinnik Book Store introduction of the novel set in Old Colorado City, Sarah Elizabeth.

The motion, made by Martha Curry and seconded by Aldine Lipe, passed by voice vote.

Members of the Old Colorado City Historical Society, or those who join, may receive a 10% discount when purchasing the book, or—if they pay full price—can donate the 10% to the Historical Society. Advise the clerk of your membership when you buy.

Members instructed the secretary to write the area's historical societies to inform them of the book. There was discussion of supplying copies to schools or nursing homes, but no action was taken on this.

Westside merchants and the bookstore sponsored a "home-coming" for Sarah and an autograph party for the author November 30th.

The book costs \$13.95. The Kinnikinnik (2530 W. Colorado, 80904) will mail a copy for an additional \$1.50 charge.

Slide Show Today Deals With Manitou's History

Pictures presenting Manitou Springs' history will entertain members at today's meeting of the Old Colorado City Historical Society. The program—one of a number of slide programs available through its office—is presented by the Main Street Project of Manitou.

The program was arranged at the suggestion of Martha and Edward Curry. Other programs are available dealing with the mineral springs and resort hotels, and with recent commercial revitalization.

Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We're pleased to have Orville Kenelly, his wife Lillian, and daughters Allison and Alyne as family members to the Old Colorado City Historical Society. The family's mailing address is post office box 6497, Zip 80934; or 2501 W. Colorado, #212, 80904. Phone 471-0551 (Mr. Kenelly's law office) or 473-5307 (residence).

Prominent former Westside resident and railroad historian Mel McFarland, who has several times presented a program for the Society, has added his support through a membership. He lives at 1731 N. Cooper, 80907, phone 633-1311.

Correction: We misspelled Helen Bassetti's name in last month's listing of new members.

Treasurer's report:

	Current	Endow
Oct. 31 balances	554.13	815.00
Memberships	+15.00	
Bank int. (- chgs)	+5.40	
Nov. 30 balances	574.53	815.00

Whittier Students Study Westside History, Will Present Findings at a Future Meeting

A group of fifth and sixth graders at Whittier School are exploring elements of Westside and Colorado Springs history and plan to present results of their research at an Old Colorado City Historical Society meeting, perhaps at our next meeting Jan. 10th.

The research program was inaugurated by Mrs. Barbara Carter, herself an interested student of Old Town history, with the endorsement of principal Kenneth Bailey. O. C. C. H. S. member Ralph Conner, retired Dist. 11 history teacher, is assisting as a volunteer.

The project is aimed at gifted and talented students, and Mrs. Carter hopes the work can some day be published for tourists.

Twice a week, four students spend an hour at Penrose library downtown, where microfilms of early newspapers and other historical sources are available. As individual students complete their research, they may use the school's computers for writing up information. This frees transportation so that other students can begin research.

The effort is experimental and is breaking the students into new skills, and bad weather has cut out some recent research sessions, so it's impossible to know when the students will be ready to share their information. Topics being researched include the labor force of 1905, William Palmer, the Ute Paint Company, and Julia Holmes.

Visitors and Guests:

Twenty-eight attended our program November 8, and luncheon was served to 25.

Among visitors or guests were Lucile Ellis, Mrs. James G. Rogers, and Millie Cox of the Kinnikinnik Book Store.

Next meeting:
Jan. 10th

Meeting Sidelights

Martha Curry reported on the pleasure she and her husband found in the guided Walking Tours of Manitou Springs. Guides may be arranged by calling the Main Street Project, 685-4255.

David Hughes blames General William Tecumseh Sherman for leaving Colorado at the mercy of the Indians during the Civil War. Hughes says Sherman "stood in the middle of Colorado Avenue" and turned down William Howbert's request for federal protection. Colorado City residents had Indian encounters in 1864 and 1868. Three local children died in Indian attacks, and several residents of nearby ranches were killed by Indians. Absence of federal troops during the Civil War caused new settlers to prefer the "northern" route via Denver into the gold fields, and caused Colorado City to whither away.

DID YOU KNOW? (about the region's history)

...that Whittier school was one of the country's first Junior High Schools? In 1916, Colorado City's seventh and eighth grade students attended a "departmentalized" system there.

...that Manitou's ultra-modern Iron Springs hotel disappointed its lady guests when it opened in 1885? They discovered they couldn't heat a curling iron on an electric light the way they'd done with gas lights!

...that the Iris newspaper estimated in 1917 that when Colorado City had a population of 5,000, about 70 worked in saloons?

Society's Plaque Is Stolen

The plaque installed in "Brent's Alley" at 2512 West Colorado Avenue has disappeared and apparently was stolen.

The metal plate on the side of the Territory Restaurant building identified the founding of Colorado City in 1859, its brief role as the "first capital" in 1861, and designation of the area as a National Historic District in 1982.

The Old Colorado City Historical Society paid \$210 for the plaque, and an additional \$50 for its installation. It was dedicated May 28, 1983.

WEST WORD

December 13, 1985 Vol. 1, Nbr. 4

Published almost every month by
The Old Colorado City Historical Society
P. O. Box 6702, Colorado Springs, CO. 80934

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was formed to maintain the memory of Colorado City (1859-1917), to encourage research to preserve historic buildings, mementos and pictures, and to keep alive the unique culture and spirit of Westside Colorado Springs.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month (except, perhaps, in the summer) at 11 a. m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1920 Henderson Avenue—across 19th Street west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center. The public is welcome at all meetings.

The program is followed by a luncheon, served by ladies of the church. Cost is \$4 per person. Reservations are required, and can be made by phoning O. C. C. H. S. secretary Ralph Conner, 634-0895. Deadline is normally the Wednesday before the meeting, although last-minute changes may be made up to 5 p. m. the Thursday before the meeting. Since we're responsible for all reservations made, please call the secretary to cancel if you find you can't attend.

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual membership is \$5 a year; family membership is \$10. Renewal falls in April. Members receive our newsletter, and local members will usually be phoned before each meeting.

Also available is a Lifetime membership, for \$100. This amount is placed in our Perpetuity-Endowment fund, to be used for long-term projects which have been approved by two-thirds of the membership. Only the interest will be used for current expenses. welcome gifts to this fund, which will be credited to the donor or as a memorial.

OFFICERS

President: David Hughes 636-2040
Secretary-Treasurer: Ralph Conner 634-0895