

October 11, 1985

List of Contributors to Ricky Cross Memorial

At our September meeting, President David Hughes brought an additional group of checks submitted to the Old Colorado City Historical Society in honor of Ricky Cross, who died in July.

More than a hundred dollars has been added to our Perpetuity-Endowment fund, to be used for some future, major project. The fund can be spent only with approval of two-thirds of the membership.

Donors to September 20th (in the order received) follow:

Sunshine Circle, First United Methodist Church.
 Friends and co-workers at Shepard's McGraw-Hill.
 Mary H. Pitts, Arvada.
 Helen M. Danko, Englewood.
 Beulah E. Gay, Englewood.
 Sally M. Brawner, Colorado Springs.

Mrs. Norma G. King, submitting the check from Shepard's McGraw-Hill, commented, "All of us admired Ricky very much and we are aware of the great interest he had in the history of the west side."

Alice Cross indicates the extensive research Ricky did on early Westside families probably will be turned over to the Society.

Treasurer's report:

	Currrt Endow	
Aug. 31 balances	596.99	735.00
Postage, paper	-34.52	
Postage pending	-13.94	
Income fr membs	+9.00	
Cross memorials		+80.00
Sept. 30 balances	558.75	815.00

Sons of Revolution Being Revived

Carl Chilcott reported to members at our September meeting that a Pikes Peak chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution is being revived. The organization was active in Colorado Springs from 1908 to 1931.

Springs Society Plans to Honor Local Writer's Restored Home

The History Society of the Pikes Peak Region is considering sponsorship of a plaque to identify the recently restored house at 439 East Bijou, former home of writer-historian Frank Waters.

Waters, now 83, is an expert on the history of Winfield Scott Stratton. He has been nominated for the Nobel prize.

Waters is the grandson of Joseph Dozier, who built many homes in the Pikes Peak region, including some on the West side and in Manitou Springs. Two Dozier brothers were associates of Winfield Scott Stratton in early building projects in the region.

Minutes of our last meeting:

Newsletter Will Put Absentees In Touch

Members have voted to send the WestWord newsletter to members of the Old Colorado City Historical Society who miss a particular meeting. Those who attend will receive their copy at the meeting.

Agnes Johnson moved that Ralph Conner should be reimbursed for paper and postage in mailing it to all absent members. Aldine Lipe seconded the motion and it carried.

Treasurer Ralph Conner said the newsletter must be sent first-class, since the minimum mailing needed to qualify for six-cent postage is 200 copies, and a \$50 annual fee would have to be paid.

Members felt the mailing would show appreciation to those who support the organization with memberships even when they are unable to attend. Several members live out of town, and others can't come because of conflicts with other meetings or because of physical disabilities.

It's hoped the newsletter will foster a feeling of participation, and be an incentive to prospective members. It may be possible to include information about the Westside which will be useful to historians and libraries.

Our next meeting:

Nov. 8

WEST WORD

October 11, 1985

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 Old Colorado City Historical Society
 P. O. Box 6702, Colorado Springs, CO. 80934
 President: David Hughes 636-2040
 Vice pres, pgm chm: Adele Galvin 473-4398
 Secy-Treasurer: Ralph Conner 634-0895

Members Reminisce About School Days On the Westside and Across the Continent

Members recalled bad weather, good teachers, and small schools at our September "Back-to-School" meeting. Memories ranged from local schools to the east coast.

There was general agreement that bad weather rarely interrupted school in "their day." Barabara Keller recalled 60-below temperatures, and going to school through tunnels of snow in northern Vermont. Snow remained on the ground from Thanksgiving to Easter. Irene C. Graham experienced similar conditions in Wisconsin, but "the cold didn't kill us." Although lunches might be frozen when you arrived at school, students built ski slides outside the one-room, eight-grade school she attended. When spring came and you took off the layers of clothing you'd worn all winter, you felt ten pounds lighter, she said. Mrs. Graham liked the one-room school which seemed to encourage your enthusiasm for learning.

Aldine Lipe also enjoyed the one-room schoolhouses in Kansas she attended, and in which she later taught. She was well-prepared for the "city" high-school and college she later attended, and appreciated personal attention and the opportunity to get recognition that came with small schools. Mrs. Graham and Mrs. Lipe felt some learning came just by being in a classroom where more-advanced students were being taught.

John Keller said New York City schools never closed because of weather, since pupils could walk one or two miles no matter how bad the storm. Beginning around World War Two school was sometimes cancelled because teachers relied on cars, which could NOT reach the schools in bad weather.

An Unusual Reception

A different perspective on weather came from Betsy Evans' experience in Phoenix. Snow was such a rare experience school was dismissed and children spent the day playing in a thin sprinkling of snow. She reflected a child's perception of age remembering principal Lulu Smith, who seemed "old" when Betsy was in school, but who invited her former students to her wedding some forty years later.

Adele Galvin went to school on Long Island near the home of P. T. Barnum and remembers animals on the schoolground. Ralph Conner recalled a geography teacher who lost control of a class of seventh-graders when she tried to improve spelling by urging students to "sound out" words. She picked the unfortunate example "Dam-ass-cuss".

When Plans Go Awry

Dave Hughes remembers the agony of his first-grade year in Pueblo when efforts to solve a problem made matters worse. He forgot to bring a book to school. He decided to hide out until lunchtime, when it would be all right to go home. Seeing children pass by, he concluded it was noon and okay for him to go inside. Unfortunately, the children he saw were kindergarteners, so he entered home an hour early and almost frozen, tipping off his mother that something wasn't right in her young son's world.

Madelaine Schaeffer ran to school—not from eagerness, but to get past the "Chinaman's" and the "fancy ladies" who lived along 26th and Colorado on her route to Whittier, when it was a Junior High. She attended Col-

orado City high school for one year before it closed.

Agnes Johnson underwent trauma when she switched Whittier in mid-year, in fourth grade. She had to cross a viaduct at 33rd street and boys hiding under-neath made life miserable for girls by their teasing. Parental intervention solved that, and when, soon after, her teacher began reading "Heidi" to the class, Mrs. Johnson became reconciled to Whittier as a "great school."

Many others had high opinions of westside schools and their teachers. Mary Tracy started at Midland when it was a two-room building, and subsequently went to Bancroft and Whittier.

Alpa L. Cook, a graduate of Truckton high school in the eastern part of the county, sent three sons to Whittier and West Junior, and remembered Mr. Green, Miss Fitzgerald, and Mr. Simms among the teachers there.

Carl Chilcott went all the way through the local education system, first at Columbia, where he remembered Miss Leach's "iron hand" as principal; to North Junior under L. B. Grafton, to Colorado Springs High when Mr. Rowe was principal, and finally to Colorado College under Mr. Mierow's presidency.

Old Longfellow School

Ruth Walsh Kruse attended the former Longfellow school at 19th and Pikes Peak, recalling Mrs. Waddell as a "neat" person. She was at West Junior under "Pop" Grindel and Lowell Mills, when Mrs. Mills taught music there. She remembers Mr. Mills in a World War One uniform, reflecting his Red Cross service during that war.

Most of the experiences recalled were happy ones, and even the bad times were tolerable as we observed the September return to school.