

April 1, 1991

Lucile Ellis Enriches Historical Archives

Lucile Ellis has passed on important historical records which once belonged to Ray Colwell, who did considerable research and wrote many historical articles. He was superintendent of Pike National Forest for many years. The collection includes his notes and manuscripts of finished articles.

The material was given to her brother, Carl Matthews, when Mr. Colwell died, and is a rich source of well-researched history.

Attendance Growth Is Evidence of Progress at Member Renewal Time

This year has seen continued accessioning of material we have on hand, the addition of many historic items, archives and pictures, a still-growing membership, and record-breaking attendance at our meetings, by members and guests.

(We're going to participate again in Territory Days and are working on new displays which will observe the 100th anniversary of the Cog Road, and the 75th anniversary of the auto highway up Pikes Peak. We'll "celebrate" the year 1936.)

We've had popular programs this year, and five of the eight represented research by our own members. We visited Glen Eyrie at Christmas time; heard from Chuck Miller on the Community Development Program; and from Kathy Hinckley on cattle brands. Member offerings were Harriet Seibel's program on Manitou, the story of Inestine Roberts by Bob Gaarder, Ralph Conner's report on Henry T. Williams and the Williamites, George Fisher's history of mining, and this month's program on George Chilcott, great-uncle of Carl Chilcott.

Much the success of our programs was due to Vice President Jan Knox, who's moving with her family to California; we trust we won't lose touch. A nominating committee has lined up a live-wire board for the year ahead to keep us perking.

There's good news in statistics: 29 new members September-April, and despite growing expenses connected with displays, accessioning and preservation,

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

Three good members joined at our March meeting—loyal Westsiders all! We welcome them and appreciate their participation.

Marjorie Harris

Maloa B. Read

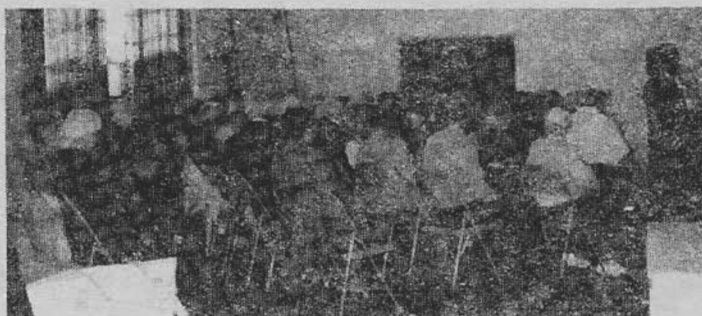
Paul Paradis

Paul owns Paradise Sales on the Avenue, and is an Advisory Director of the Old Colorado City Associates. We're pleased to have Westside businesspeople as members.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

The George Chilcott Story Will Be Told

We'll be introduced to an distinguished early citizen of Colorado, when Carl Chilcott tells the story of his great-uncle, George M. Chilcott, who came to Colorado in 1859, held every state office except governor, was a U.S. Senator, and served Abraham Lincoln as land registrar. Besides a distinguished political career, George Chilcott made valuable contributions to business and agriculture in southern Colorado.



Above: In January, 64 were present, including 20 visitors and guests. This year we averaged 47 at each meeting.—Photo by Virginia Cox.

our nest-egg is approaching \$150,000. We're noting real estate offerings and laying plans for foundation support, but aren't committed to a building.

If this suggests a dynamic, growing organization with a bright future, give credit to our members. Their support and participation is vital, and we must assume visitors and new members find us friendly and agreeable. To keep our momentum going, please continue your support by renewing promptly.

(Avoid the fate of Lucille Damico, who wrote in January, "I am sending a check after realizing how much I miss 'WestWord'.")

IF you need to renew your membership,

you'll find inside a renewal card, already made out, to enclose with your check. A self-addressed envelope is also provided. Please examine the card and make any corrections on the information there.

If you DON'T find a card, you're already renewed and you don't need to respond. Thank you!

Westside Memories: *Turning Back the Clock on Local Events*

Twenty-five Years Ago

April, 1966

Citing residential and Expressway development, Byron Church told realtors, "West Colorado Springs is a community of progress and character."

Swiss-style Chalet Marti opened at 2609 W. Pikes Peak, renting one-bedroom apartments for \$85-110. Ruth and Don Weidner developed the property.

Waldo Dyck sold his interest in West End Furniture, 2432 W. Colo., to R. Park Jackson and Ralph Kennedy.

Edward C. McBride retired from Timken Roller. He and wife Alice lived at 323 N. 16th.

Manitou high school girls "walked to school" to prove they're as rugged as their mothers said they were. Left Cascade at 5:15; to school at 8:10.

Fifty Years Ago

April, 1941

Westiders George Birdsall, on the Springs' council for 20 years, was re-elected mayor for the seventh successive two-year term; Ben H. Stewart, 12 years on the council, was re-elected for a fifth two-year term.

Helen W. Stewart, widow of Orrie, who spent summers on Pikes Peak when her father, Thomas Wilson, published a daily paper on the Peak, leased the cogroad summit house for the summer.

Piggly Wiggly held a grand opening at its new store, 2503 W. Colorado. It was in Sulley apartment building, which was brightened with fresh paint.

PFC Paul Brazier, 1824 W. Colorado, visited home from the 7th Cavalry at Fort Bliss. Paul Henderson, 1716 W. Colorado, was on leave from the Navy. Clarence Jack Miller, 2719 W. Bijou, inducted in Denver as replacement for Mathew Paul Micci, minor volunteer.

1942 license plates would switch from black and yellow to maroon and white. Colorado and Montana had the smallest plates in the nation.

Gold Camp Road closed from Bruin Inn east while road was rebuilt around a condemned trestle; it was accessible through North Cheyenne Canon.

Colorado Springs was one of two state locations considered for one of 61 army pilot-training ground schools.

A Roundup Clinic at West Junior and grade schools taught parents health care for pre-school children.

CF&I upped wages 10¢ an hour so daily wage for day labor was \$5.60.

Mayor-elect
(in 1941)
George
Birdsall



(Before 1917 Colorado City was an independent town.)

Seventy-five Years Ago

April, 1916

Despite reducing its price from \$250,000 to \$200,000, no bids were received in three sale offerings of the former United States Reduction and Refining Company property.

Work would begin May 1st on Springs' Santa Fe station. Would have men's and women's waiting rooms. No guest accommodations, but would include rooms for Harvey House employees.

Colorado Springs considered an orchestra of local musicians to replace Midland Band for summer concerts, because of unsatisfactory 1915 season. Colorado City merchants debated its own concerts featuring the local Woodmen of the World band.

First rural mail route out of Colorado Springs served Harrison north to Pike View and took in Curtis, Papetown and St. Stephens school.

Restaurant planned at Glen Cove.

Macks Candy equipment sold off.

James Campbell staked four claims in Queen's canon for tungsten.

Rumors were the Midland railroad had been sold to the Rock Island. Pay-roll was delayed until month-end.

Former employee W. F. Kelm planned to re-open the Norrinkle Trunk Factory, closed for several months.

National was cleanest hotel in the state after its insides were painted.

Saw mill and lumberyard opposite the Methodist Church on Lincoln Ave. were to be removed when the lease ran out. Neighbors were delighted.

Jerome Unser was new clerk at the McCracken grocery.

Liquor on hand when prohibition began was being used up. County imported 518 shipments in March—200 more than in February.

DAR ladies passed out American flags, asking at least 7¢ in donations—cost of feeding a Belgian for one day.

One Hundred Years Ago

April, 1891

One of oldest buildings in the state, and a local landmark, burned. Owned by C. D. Roberts and occupied by Larry Watts' saloon, it was built in 1859 by Tappan Bros. as a general store. It was across the street north from the Stockbridge house. It served as a county courthouse until that was established in a new brick building on the site of Bancroft school in 1873.

Thomas E. Wright cherished a rebel sword he took in 1862 from an artillery officer. Wright was then a member of the Second Illinois Cavalry.

In the Springs, Council considered changing the name of Huerfano to something more common, but dropped the question without action. City also turned water into Prospect Lake and completed a road to it.

Antlers' waiter Charles Harris stole a revolver and was arrested when he showed it off in Colorado City to Bob Ford, the slayer of Jesse James.

Streeter company tested 3-ton snow-clearing machine, warning it was noisy and might scare horses. Revolving brushes threw snow back into a hopper, where it melted on heated pipes. Water and debris were poured alongside tracks. If satisfactory, machine would be bought for \$6,000.

Colorado City women raised money for a suit of clothes for J. Bennett, who accidentally discharged a pistol into his leg and became paralyzed.

Midland foreman Richard Griffith failed to unseat Mayor Stockbridge in the city election. Said the Independent: "Most of the money that has been paid for votes by the Stockbridge gang is only lent. The individuals...will turn it in again over the gaming table and the bar in less than a week."

Cog Road would begin operations on June 10th, charging \$5 for a round trip. There was no competition from a carriage road, but burros offered cut-rate transportation.

Colorado City complained that it paid an undertaker \$35 and a gravedigger \$5 to bury a pauper, but the county made a contract which called for burial of paupers for \$2.75 each.

Eleven glass blowers arrived at the Glassworks; 3 more were expected.

National news: Washington, D. C. banned posters of ballet dancers as indecent. But a rural congressman commented about dresses of ladies of fashion in Washington, saying he hadn't seen the like since he was weaned.

Daughter Adds Opinion About Roberts' Program

A family member has added a footnote to the talk given O.C.C.H.S. in January by Bob Gaarder about **Inestine Roberts**, the 88-year-old woman who died in 1957 while climbing Pikes Peak.

Mrs. Roberts' daughter, **Helen Roberts Richman**, of Laguna Hills, California, listened to a tape of the program sent by Mr. Gaarder, and read the **WestWord** summary (Feb., 1991). She wrote Mr. Gaarder to reinforce points made in the presentation that her mother declined offers that might have saved her life, and that those on the Peak did all they could to assure Mrs. Roberts' safety.

Mrs. Richman points out that "between the time she was offered overnight lodging and the time she made the request, a change had been made in the operation of the summit house. Everyone came down at early evening, and went back up the next morning." This was a change from the practice of having the summit-house staff stay all night on the Peak.

This was explained to Mrs. Roberts, and she was given two offers of auto rides back to Manitou or to her home. "She declined," says Mrs. Richman, "ran out of the house and disappeared down the trail."

People at the summit also phoned down the mountain to alert those below that Mrs. Roberts was hiking down. Mrs. Richman understands that a man from Barr Camp walked to the summit looking for Mrs. Roberts but failed to find her. The man hiked back down and phoned the sheriff's office, who in turn contacted **Marjorie Roberts**, at whose home the elder Mrs. Roberts lived. The search for Mrs. Roberts began the next day.

Mrs. Richman concluded her letter to Bob Gaarder, "I just could dislike having you or anyone else feel my mother was treated badly, when real concern for her welfare was shown by those involved."

George Fisher's Mining History Informs, Leads to Discussion and Invention's Story

At our meeting March 8th, member **George Fisher** not only gave us information about early mining and about minerals, but he stimulated general discussion and information-sharing in which many of those at our meeting participated.

His topic was the first hundred years of mining, and he began by noting continuing interest in the subject, as shown in our survey about the desired scope of our museum: 77% of those responding urged us to include mining in our future exhibits.

His slides showed development of mining equipment from the pick-and-shovel era into new inventions and improvements. We followed this evolution through the taped comments of a veteran miner looking back on changes he had observed.

What a man could do applying directly his own muscle gave way to simple mechanisms like the windlass, to application of power as tunnels burrowed and branched and piled ever-steeper stopes.

OCC Library Seeks "New" Old Photos

The Westside library is planning a special photo display of Old Colorado City for May and is looking for interesting pictures.

Betsy Evans says Friends of the Library have raised funds and are making selections. She's sure there are "undiscovered" shots which would be of interest. Many pictures will be given to O.C.C.H.S. when the display is finished.

Anyone with pictures to lend or donate should call Mrs. Evans during library hours at 634-1698.

Whittier School Looking For Its Oldest Graduate

Plans are moving ahead for the celebration of the Whittier School-building's 90th birthday, and a search is on to locate the oldest living "graduate", according to **Pat Bonser Walters**.

The search is being pushed with help from **Ken Mirise**, who is a prime candidate for the honor. He went to Liller school, Arensdale, and finished at Whittier.

He's well-versed in Westside lore and proud of the distinguished grads of his school. Among those are some O.C.C.H.S. members: **Eleanor Dunn**, **Woodrow Ralston**, and **Richard and Ira Current**. Mr. Mirise was a prominent contractor involved in Ute Pass highway construction.

His pictures preserved many features of a 1974 exhibit in the First National Bank lobby, where early equipment was displayed. Picks, gold pans, buckets, shovels, hand drills, and candle-holders served the miner day by day, but he also relied on a broad assortment of surveying and assaying equipment.

While much of his presentation dealt with tools, Mr. Fisher also touched on the knowledge helpful to a miner. Colorful slides showed us relatively familiar minerals like gold, turquoise, lead and gypsum, but also surveyed less-well-known substances which guided a prospector, like manganite, beryl, albite, and calcite.

WE'RE SHOWN AN INVENTION

Among those responding to the talk was **Helen Michelson**, who showed us a candle-holder invented by her father, **John Lindahl**, which played a role in early mining. It was sharply pointed at one end so it could be driven into cracks, with a loop at the other end so it could be hung. In a hollow handle the miner stored his matches.

Mr. Lindahl eventually sold the rights for \$500. Even after the carbide light was in general use, a candle performed an important function by warning of "bad" air. If the candle burned with an orange flame, watch out!

ROLL CALL

from our last meeting:

We welcomed 53 at our March 8th meeting for a lively program and discussion ranging from history to spelling. There were 35 who stayed for lunch. Members who signed in were:

Kay Arnold	Catherine Henderson
Janice Billingsley	Rosemary Hetler
Sally Brawner	Sandi Hoewisch
Rosemae Campbell	Scott Hogg
Vera Chambon	Jerry Iverson
Bertha Chilcott	Joyce Johns
Carl Chilcott	Madeline Keas
Ralph Conner	John Keller
Virginia E. Cox	Aldine Lipe
John Croff	Elizabeth Mares
Arnold Cunningham	Ruth Maxwell
Jerry Cunningham	Helen Michelson
Lucille Cunningham	Margaret L. Nichols
Ed Curry	Lyn Owen
Martha Curry	Paul Paradis
Bev Diehl	Pat Patton
Lucile Ellis	Maloa Read
George Fisher	Liliane F. Ross
Bob Gaarder	Arthur Ruby
Marillio Garret	Claire Ruby
Margaret Golden	Harriet Seibel
Veda Goosman	Robert E. Simons
David Harr	Rose Slusher
Shirley Harr	Pat Bonser Walters
Marjorie Harris	Raymond Ziegler

VISITORS

Betty Fisher	B. E. Tillotson Jr.
James H. Locke	

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April 1, 1991



Old Colorado City Historical Society
Post Office Box 6702
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80934

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

11 am, Friday, April 12th
Trinity U. M. Church, 701 North 20th
Just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center

For luncheon reservations please phone
Lyn Owen, 473-1846

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

11 am, Friday, May 10th
Annual Business Meeting and Election

WEST WORD

Edited by Ralph Conner, 634-0895
Vol. VI, Number 8 April 1, 1991

Published the first of almost every month by the Old Colorado City Historical Society, Inc., Post Office Box 6702, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 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, to keep alive the unique culture and spirit of Westside Colorado Springs, and to establish a museum in honor of Colorado City's dramatic history.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at 11 a. m., usually at Trinity United Methodist Church, 701 N. 20th (at Henderson)—west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center. The public is welcome and no reservation is needed for the program.

The meeting is followed by a luncheon, served by people of the church. Cost is \$5 per person. *Reservations are required* and should be made by phoning Lyn Owen, 473-1846. You may leave a message at any time. Please call Lyn Owen to cancel if you find you cannot attend.

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual membership is \$5 a year; family membership is \$10. Memberships are welcome at any time; renewal falls in April.

Members receive this newsletter and local members will be phoned if they wish before each meeting.

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

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

	Work	Home
President Joyce Johns		635-4649
Vice President Jan Knox		495-3359
Secretary Ralph Conner	633-1394	634-0895
Treasurer Rosemae Campbell		633-8682
Vera Chambon		634-2340
Virginia Cox		635-8705
Bob Gaarder		632-7412
David Hughes		636-2040
Aldine Lipe		475-1658
Ruth Maxwell		599-3111
Leon Young	633-2621	633-1543

Treasurer's Report

Rosemae Campbell, Treasurer
March 1, 1991

Assets as of January:

Checking acct., PP Nat'l Bnk.	10,747.76
Bank Western CD (7.95%)	33,007.26
World Savings CD (8.06%)	39,753.24
US Treasury Notes (8.5%)	62,550.00
Total assets	\$146,058.26

Secretary's Expenses

TO APRIL 1, 1991

Speaker's luncheon	5.00
Newsletter printing	7.70
Postage: nl's and publicity	3.77
Total due sec'y as of 4/1/91	16.47