

Dec. 1, 1991

THIS MONTH'S MEETING:



(Luther McKnight photograph)

Board Rolls Over Bank CD

The O.C.C.H.S. board met briefly Nov. 8 and decided to roll over a certificate of deposit we have in Bank Western. The current balance is \$34,796.17.

Those present voted to continue the certificate for another six months. Interest drops from 6.398% to 5.135%.

Board members present were Ralph Conner, Virginia Cox, John Croff, Bob Gaarder, Joyce Johns, and Pat Patton.

Voters' Guide Issued

The League of Women Voters issued a new Voters' Guide which might be of interest to members of O.C.C.H.S. It's available at libraries, most banks, city halls and the county election department. It's free.

It lists national, state and local elected officials with their addresses and party affiliations, tells how and where to register, how to obtain absentee ballots, and other information about courts, libraries and school districts. Details about the booklet are available at 633-0466.

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

We welcome to membership, and extend season's greetings to **Mr. and Mrs. Michael Knight**, who are too young to be old-timers, but who have an interest in Old Colorado City. They're sponsored with wishes for a Merry Christmas by **W. L. Ralston**, our loyal Pueblo member.

We're also pleased to enter the membership of **George White**, who proved his interest in history by his presentation at our November meeting. He's active giving talks to adults and school-children, and we've already received an inquiry from a group who wants to schedule him for a talk.



Spread the Cheer through the year!

Send a sample of the old home town

Give a year's membership in the Old Colorado City Historical Society

We'll send a card and a WestWord in your name just before Christmas



We'll Eat "Out" in Dec., Hear Story of Lost Bet

No Reservation Needed; We Eat Before the Program; Come Late This Month Only

Any habits you've gotten into about our meetings won't apply this month, because (to let the ladies at Pikes Peak United Methodist get ready for Christmas) we don't meet at the church.

Bob Gaarder will finally (and for sure) get to tell his story of a man who lost a bet and paid off in a way which became part of Pikes Peak's history.

We meet about 11:30, at **King's Table, 3015 N. Nevada**. That's on the east side of Nevada, just beyond Fillmore. We'll eat before the program, which will be presented a little after noon, so come at your convenience. Get your meal at the buffet and bring it to the room set aside for us.

No reservations are needed, although you may call **Lyn Owen, 473-1846**, if you can offer or need transportation.

Lunch at King's Table costs \$5.31 including the tax, but for those of you who'll admit to being over 55, lunch is \$4.79 with tax. You'll serve yourself to a varied selection of salads, vegetables, soup and entrees.

Bob's talk isn't earth-shaking history, and he's been frustrated more than once when he's been ready to give it but time or other matters interfered. Don't expect too much, but come for a sociable and informal meeting.

White House Ranch Observes Yuletide

White House Ranch plans special events on the weekends of 7-8, 14-15, and 21-22, including music, tours, shopping and displays. 578-6891 for details.

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

Twenty-five Years Ago

December, 1966

Harlan O. Roberson, vice president at Pikes Peak National, served as chairman of the business and industry division of the March of Dimes.

Lawrence Torguson, 1506 W. St. Vrain, was outstanding airman in his unit at Lewistown Air Station, Mont.

First Assembly of God members burned their mortgage at Walnut and Pikes Peak; the church was debt-free.

Stephen Burch, 901 Crown Ridge, and Prentis Porter, 2127 Bott, became Eagle Scouts at Trinity Methodist.

Blunt Mortuary at 23rd and Colorado received new shrubbery and an enlarged front door during remodeling.

John G. Bock, 77, died in Phoenix. He developed Red Rock Canon.

Angry woman left her husband, headed to West Virginia by driving west on Colorado, struck a car in the 2700 block, wedged her car between a fence and a warehouse. She'd never driven or had a driver's license.

Fifty Years Ago

December, 1941

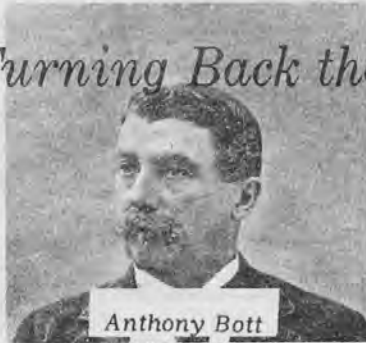
Daniel Griffin, 30, son of Rev. and Mrs. Pearl D. Griffin, died at Pearl Harbor, leaving a wife and two children in Honolulu. Russell E. Gallagher, formerly of 1026 W. Colorado, was wounded at Hickman Field. Among survivors: George Doak, 716 N. Cedar; Edgar L. James, Mesa Road; Richard Rockett, Jr., 419 W. Kiowa; Worth Shipman, 528 W. Columbia; Henry Elkins, 24-year veteran of the navy; Arcene Cook, 315 N. 16th, George Carmack, 2820 W. Kiowa; Winford McAnally, 1322 W. Pikes Peak.

Nine and 10-year-old boys broke into the empty house at 2106 W. Bijou, burned tree limbs to light their way, set fire to the house. H. P. Hansen, 1806 W. Pikes Peak, was the owner.

Turkey Day was a success, turning loose 30 turkeys, chickens, and ducks. Colorado was blocked between 24th and 26th. One bird lit on the awning of West End Furniture and the crowd tore at the awning to get it. W.R. Weedon and Waldo Dyck intervened before the frame and window were destroyed.

Irving Bruce became police chief, succeeding 24-year vet Hugh Harper.

Theodore Kuhlman, 4 N. Spruce, Louis Cunningham, 2106 W. Bijou were graduated as aviation cadets and went on to advanced flying school.



Anthony Bott

(Before 1917 Colorado City was an independent town.)

Seventy-five Years Ago

December, 1916

Anthony Bott died Dec. 12 at age 80. Born in Alsace, came to Pennsylvania at 2, headed west at 20. Arrived here in 1858, became a contractor, opened quarries and a cement factory. At 62, married Mrs. Olivia Longton. Built house at 22nd and Colorado in 1901. Cared for by niece, Mrs. Harriet Bott Daniels, during months of illness.

Midland Railroad must be sold, decreed the court which controlled it 4 years. Had a million-dollar debt, needed another 1½ million to restore it. Never showed a profit during receivership; in 1915, had a deficit of \$65,000. \$1,000 bonds sold for \$60.

Independent noted that Mrs. Laura McDaniel, 611 Washington, was a new subscriber.

In November, only 6 arrests were made, no fire alarms turned in. Meals for month's prisoners amounted to 60¢.

City tore down pedestrian suspension bridge over the Monument at Kiowa. Westsiders planned to petition PUC to require an underpass there.

Joint committee recommended annexation of Colorado City to Colorado Springs.

Jitney service extended transportation to 15 blocks of homes beyond the end of the Spruce streetcar line at San Rafael and Walnut.

Midland's night operator at Florissant disappeared, with express shipment of 7-hundred dollar Christmas payroll of the Mercantile Company.

Cold weather brought a rush to the county farm; Supt. Darby authorized to get additional beds and blankets for 45 men and 6 women being cared for.

"The Art of Punning," by Cheyenne teacher Caesar Davis, was published with illustrations by Fred Shantz.

Post Office declined to change Manitou to Manitou Springs to promote the mineral springs, pointed out the railway station still said "Manitou."

Pikes Peak Ocean-to-Ocean highway might be extended from Salt Lake City to the Pacific coast.

One Hundred Years Ago

December, 1891

1890 census said Colorado City's population was 1,788, an increase of 415% over 1880 population of 347. Colorado Springs grew by 163%.

Colorado City citizens responded to the lure of gold. Anthony Bott, A. Z. Sheldon, Prof. Keck of the Glassworks, were enthusiastic after visits. Will McCrea moved *Colorado City News* to Fremont. Mr. Hendrick opened a boot and shoe store. H. B. Quimby took a tent to board miners, planned a stable. C.R. Godfrey bought a corner lot for a future drug store. William Eaton sold real estate, said it was almost as lucrative as mining.

Burning of C. L. Smith's barn on Lincoln destroyed horses and a wagon-load of goods for Cripple Creek. William Miller froze both feet going to Cripple Creek on the Cheyenne Road.

The gold camp, with 50 school-aged children, petitioned to establish a school. Father Dyer, pioneer Methodist preacher, was given two town lots and sought funds for a church. Bear Creek toll road was to be extended 6 miles to bring it to Fremont. Hundley and Abbott began fast stage: Leave Florissant at 12:30, change horses halfway, arrive Fremont at 3. Fare was \$1.50.

Colorado City was so quiet that policeman Woods was dropped, Arthur Diggs let go as cow and dog catcher.

A smelter for Colorado City was again being talked about.

P. M. Condit from Delta succeeded J. P. Jackson as superintendent of Colorado City schools. Flora Everhart became Colorado City's postmistress.

C. M. Sherman's store gave children 265 sacks of candy on Christmas day.

Dist. Attorney filed charges against 16 Colorado City and Manitou gamblers. Those who plead guilty paid \$60 into the school fund. Among them: Robert Ford, Jas. I. Lacey, Dick Bell.

A Colorado City policeman rode the streetcar to Colorado Springs, and a passenger asked the conductor why he didn't collect the officer's fare. Replied the conductor, "Why, you can't make a nickle out of a 'copper'."

"Colorado Springs Gazette publishes a sure method of preventing doors from creaking. In a moral prohibition town like Colorado Springs where there are no saloons to keep a man out after 1 p.m., the information seems useless. But perhaps it was for the benefit of the wicked sinners who reside in Colorado City."—Lamar Sparks.

Our Railroads Opened the Rockies to Trade, Tourists and Spectacle

The main attraction was the pictures, but George White's presentation on "Early Colorado Mountain Railroads" gave us information, and the flavor of the railroad era, at our meeting Nov. 8th.

He used scenes from advertising brochures and contemporary postcards as illustrations, and they justified the awe in which earlier generations held the railroads.

The railroads were built to move goods and gold ore, but the companies recognized that people were eager to ride where man had rarely been, to experience the thrills and admire the handiwork of builders. They named the features and scheduled the stops so visitors could ooh and aah, and mail spectacular postcards home.

Mr. White told much of the story from his own experience, including a trip he made with his mother from Pueblo, up the Arkansas to Salida, to Gunnison and Grand Junction, and back to Leadville and Buena Vista—a trip of 450 miles which cost the pair \$9.

He was most impressed, he said, with abilities of the early surveyors and engineers to plan and build the roads, and with crews which maintained the lines under impossible conditions of cold and snow.

The railroad lore involved as many as seven engines pulling one train, and switchbacks, snowsheds, plows, turntables, trestles, tunnels, and

Trains Allowed Anyone to Visit Strange Scenes; Sometimes Railways Created Them

railroad era, at

rails snaking along stream-beds that periodically flooded and wiped out the tracks.

Trains cuddled cliffs towering 300 feet above the tracks and plunging 800 feet to the stream below on the Durango-Silverton line. Or crossed bridges soaring 1200 feet above the valley floor in Cumbres pass. Or, in contrast, paused in colorful meadows on wild-flower excursions.

He picked three Colorado features which he considers the most remarkable:

Georgetown is the site of the best known of a rare number of loops, the others being in Switzerland, the Andes and California.

The D&RG managed to get through the Royal Gorge by "hanging" tracks from the canon wall.

And before the Moffatt tunnel was built there was the "top of the world" route which rose from Yankee Doodle Lake, up a thousand feet to Corona at the top of Hell Hill. If we can believe the picture, you could stand beside the train at the top and drop rocks on the tracks at the lake below!

Mr. White supplied stories with his pictures. Some we accepted, and others edged beyond the likely! It was not impossible to believe that he found himself on a wildflower expedition in a picture being auctioned decades later. We were less inclined to accept that the D&RG conductors at the tail of the train handed the engineer his orders as the train looped near Gunnison!

TRANSITION

Raymond F. Ziegler

Ray Ziegler was born in 1909 in Salina, KA, to John and Bertha L. (Urie) Ziegler, but lived many years in Colorado Springs where he was a printer at the Gazette-Telegraph until retirement. He died Nov. 7.

He was a member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, Peaks and Plains Antique Bottle Club, the International Typographical Union, and the Old Colorado City Historical Society.

He had been married to Viola Ziegler who died in 1988. He is survived by a son, Gary of Westcliffe, and a stepson, Duane Webb of Nebraska. Contributions may be made to the Pikes Peak Hospice.

Emily M. Johnson

Mrs. Johnson was not a member of O.C.C.H.S., but she was a native of Colorado City, a prominent Westsider and she attended

one of our meetings as a guest.

She was born in 1896 at Finley Ranch—now, 417 N. 31st—to Edward A. and Edna (Ingraham) Brown. Her grandmother was Elvira Finley. She and her husband were caretakers of White House ranch for 27 years; she wrote a history of it. She was past president of the El Paso County Pioneers' Asso., and belonged to the White House Ranch Living History Asso., the Kinnikinnik Chapter D.A.R., was active at Pioneers Museum.

She is survived by Evelyn C. Brown of Canon City, a sister. Contributions may be made to the first Evangelical Free Church.

Briefly:

Virginia Cox has returned from a visit with her granddaughter in Pittsburg, CA. She'll be able to report first hand on damages caused by fires in California.

We acknowledge gratefully an

important additional contribution from the Jack W. Heath family.

They gave us a reed organ modified by Luther McKnight to use player-piano rolls. We'd been unable to test the mechanism, but Mrs. Heath found some rolls which we'll soon be able to put to work. A little reconditioning will be needed first, however, in order to guard the rolls from deterioration.

We've missed John and Barbara Keller at recent meetings, but we're even more disappointed to learn from Orville Kenelly that it's because of illness. John has been bothered lately by emphysema. We hope doctors and weather will soon ease the discomfort.

Leslie and Christine Atkins, their daughter and son-in-law, paid a visit to Colorado Springs, from their families' respective homes in Texas and Arizona.

Community Center Shapes Up at W. Jr.

The walls and roof are up at the Intergenerational Learning Center being added to the north-west corner of West Junior High.

The walls are cinder-block so far, but they'll be faced with brick in the weeks ahead.

It's a joint project by the school district, the city and the Community Action Agency where educational and social activities will be aimed at everyone from pre-schoolers through West Junior students and senior citizens. Teens might take a baby-sitting course with help from grandparents, or the older folks may learn about computers guided by the younger generation.

The project is on schedule and may be completed in January.

Treasurer's Report

John Croff, Treasurer

(When we invited contributions towards our building fund towards the purchase of Jacob Schmidt's saloon, 2611 W. Colorado, we offered the option of limiting contributions to that single project. The "refunds" listed below went to those who asked for all or a portion of their contribution to be refunded in case the purchase of Schmidt's fell through.)

Deposits (memberships and pay-
payments from those who made
reservations but missed lunch) 25.00
Secy's expenses May, June, July 253.80
Refunds from building fund 230.00
Pks Pk Nat'l chekng bal 10/31 1715.37

Secretary's Expenses

Ralph Conner, Secretary

Misc. postage 2.70
Guest's luncheon 5.00
Newsletter, negatives and plate 8.05
Total due secretary to 12/1/91 15.74

ROLL CALL

from our last meeting:

We had another record crowd in November, with an excellent turnout of members and probably the most visitors we've ever had. We counted 72 at the meeting, and we were dragging chairs from every part of the church except the sanctuary. Forty-six attended the luncheon.

We hope our visitors will come again, or even take out a membership! In either case they'll be most welcome.

It's particularly agreeable for us when our speaker joins the organization, as George White did.

Members who signed in were:

Jo Alden	Rosemary Hetzler
Nancy Cantrell	Geraldine Iverson
Bertha Chilcott	Joyce Johns
Carl Chilcott	Aldine Lipe
Jean Christopher	Agnes J. Loesch
Ralph Conner	Elizabeth Mares
Virginia E. Cox	Helen Michelson
John Croff	Carl McClure
Arnold Cunningham	Doug Neely
Jerry Cunningham	Patrice S. Neely
Lucille Cunningham	Lyn Owen
Lucile Ellis	Pat Patton
George Fisher	Maloa Read
Bob Gaarder	Jim Rogers
Marillia Garrett	Virginia Rogers
Chuck Geiss	Liliane Ross
Liz Geiss	Arthur Ruby
Veda Goosman	Claire Ruby
Eileen Graham	Madeleine Schaeffer
Nancy Graner	Harriet Seibel
Alfred Hagedorn	Bob Simons
David Harr	Martha Simons
Marjorie Harris	Pat Walters
Catherine Henderson	

VISITORS AND GUESTS

We extend a special welcome to the younger generation, particularly to Katey and Sarah Sampson.

Lauren Jay may be our youngest visitor ever. She's three and accompanied Anne Ashcraft to the meeting and luncheon. She may not remember much of what she heard about railroads, but she adapted herself to the meeting like a real lady!

Visitors who signed in were:

Anne Ashcraft	Lou W. Hansel
Ed Bethke	Margaret Houfek
Bill Butler	Paul Idelman
Scott Butler	Dolly MacPherson
Don Bymaster	Shar McClure
Marjorie Calu	John J. Sampson
Florence Edgerly	Katey Sampson
Lillian Garrett	Sarah Sampson
Jim Goosman	Shirley Sampson
John Graham	Leda Verney
	George White

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

11:30 am, Friday, Dec. 13th
King's Table, 3015 N. Nevada
No reservation Needed

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

11 am, Friday Jan. 10th
Trinity U. M. Church, 701 North 20th

WEST WORD

Edited by Ralph Conner, 719/634-0895
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Published the first of almost every month by the Old Colorado City Historical Society, a non-profit corporation, 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 history center to honor Colorado City's dramatic and significant past.

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—just 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 FOR THE LUNCHEON and should be made by phoning Lyn Owen, 473-1846. 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 before each meeting if they wish.

Lifetime memberships are also available for \$100 per person. This amount is placed to a 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	Pat Patton	574-6976
Secretary	Ralph Conner	634-0895
Treasurer	John Croff	632-2896
	Vera Chambon	634-2340
	Virginia Cox	635-8705
	Bob Gaarder	632-7412
	Dave Hughes	636-2040
	Aldine Lipe	475-1658
	Ruth Maxwell	599-3111
	Leon Young	633-2621 633-1543