WEST Old Colorado City Historical Society WORD

Whoops!

RALPH CONNER

The wooden mug from the Jacob Schmidt saloon, presented to our collection by Martha Simons, was given in honor of her late husband, Robert Simons. The secretary apologizes for a careless error in identification.

Making Things Happen

LUCILLE CUNNINGHAM

Jean Christopher, EDUCATION COMMITTEE Chair, has given two talks to elementary school children. She has also received a box of historical materials from **Barbara Carter**; these will come in handy for use in planning, and we surely appreciate them.

Lee Michels, INTERVIEW COMMITTEE, reports that interviewing of Westside Senior Citizens started during March. **Martha Curry** gave us the name of an elderly gentleman whose father was the horticulturist for General Palmer. How fortunate we are to get names like that; we appreciate the help. Anyone having names of persons who really ought to be interviewed in the near future should please call Lee Michels at 632-7548 or Lucille Cunningham at 630-7578.

Lance Michels, FLOAT COMMITTEE, dressed for his role as conductor of our Trolley Car Float, cheerfully rang an authentic trolley car bell during the St. Patricks Day Parade. This was the first year that OCCHS had a large mobile float in the parade; it was a replica of one of the first ten horsedrawn trolley cars used on Colorado Avenue in the 1880s. Miners, townspeople, and 'famous ladies of the redlight district' rode on the float. We recognize and appreciate **Lance & Lee Michels**, **Joe & Marty Walker**, **Amy & Courtney Michels**, Christina Henderson, and **John Alford** for their hard work; **Ken & Mary Zurcher** for the heated garage to work in; **Sandy Knox** for his help in so many ways and for providing the modern-day horsepower; **Heuberger Motors** for the float bed; **Bud & Jerry Calhoun** and **Kwall Paint** for donating paint; **Six Star** for donating balloons and streamers; and, **Mark Cunningham** of **West One Group** for the temporary storage garage. We also applaud **Joyce Johns**, **Jan Knox**, **Lance & Lee Michels**, **Lucille Cunningham**, and **Orrin Haynes** for funding the project with cash contributions. And, thank you so much to **Phillip Rector**, president of the **Pikes Peak Historical Street Railway Foundation**, for loaning us their authentic trolley car bell!

19 APRIL 94

A WESTSIDE WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

DOROTHY MCGLASSON

Rita & Ted Alsup are among the new members of OCCHS. They have lived in Colorado Springs since 1985 and joined the Society because they enjoy the history of small towns.

Owen "Sandy" Knox, husband of the Society's vice president Jan Knox, is another new member. He retired from the US Army in 1984 and is superintendent of the Park Forest Water District. Sandy has been very active in OCCHS, particularly in working on grant requests for the History Center.

Items Of Note

RALPH CONNER

✓ John M. Keller, 65, passed away 28 February. He was a past president and lifetime member of OCCHS. Mr. Keller was born 19 November 1928 to Max and Pauline Antoinette (Snedeker) Kelle in Flushing, New York. He was a former marine and an employee of the New York Waterfront Commission until his retirement; the family came to this region in 1978. He married Barbara Parker, who is also a lifetime OCCHS member. Mr. Parker is survived by his wife, three sons, a daughter, and a sister. He was a member of the Senior Victim Assistance Team, Concerned Westside Neighbors, Pikes Peak Model A Club, Ford Falcon Club, National Woodcarvers Association, National Rifle Association, and Disabled American Veterans; he volunteered with the Boy Scouts and Terros Hotline. Mr. Parker was elected president of our society in 1987 and served two years. Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army.

✓ Lucille D. Cunningham, OCCHS president, has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the Pikes Peak Community Action Agency.

✓ Not everyone at our last meeting was aware that we had a celebrity in our midst. Harold (Hal) Grant and his wife Grace, who attended as guests of B. E. & Jean Tillotson, live in Denver, North Carolina, and came to Colorado to enjoy our skiing. He ranks No. 3 in the nation for downhill racing, in the eighty-or-over category, in which he won a gold medal last year.

April Meeting

DOROTHY MCGLASSON

Mountain Men

Paul "Rattler" Partridge of Denver will present the program at the next OCCHS meeting, to be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 701 North 20 Street (just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center), at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, 08 April.

Partridge will tell stories and demonstrate mountain man techniques for living off the land — such as cooking on a spit and winter survival.

Born in Westminster, Vermont, in the Mohawk Valley, Partridge had a Mohawk Indian friend who taught him how to fish, hunt and camp in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The knowledge came in handy during the Depression when he became a hobo who traveled by freight train.

He served for three and one-half years with the US Army Signal Corps in the South Pacific, and was discharged in September 1945 in Denver, after which he worked in construction for the city and county of Denver and for the city of Englewood until his retirement.

Partridge presents his mountain man program for boy scouts, cub scouts, school groups, and state parks.

A noon luncheon follows the program, for which reservations may be made by Tuesday prior; phone Lyn Owen at 473-1846.

Memberships

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Checked below is your status, according to our records. Contact us in case of error.

☐ **You need to renew membership**, since annual renewals occur in April. Please refer to the Membership Classifications on page four, to determine which category under which you'd like to renew.

☐ **No need to renew membership**; renewal is not necessary if:

you're a life member;
you joined late in 1993;
you've paid in advance;
your membership is a gift from:

A favor... please pay for lunches and memberships separately... thank you — it's a great help to us!

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

Twenty Five Years Ago

MARCH 1969

★ Eighteen million hamburgers had been consumed by Colorado Springs residents in the ten years since the first of four McDonalds, owned by Dick Faulkner, opened in 1959. Laid end to end, that number of 'burgers would stretch from here to Chicago.

★ Baseball celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

★ District 11 decided to use a locally owned and operated private enterprise, Canine Patrol Inc., to guard school property due to repeated acts of vandalism and arson in recent weeks.

★ Dr. Denton Cooley performed the first totally artifical heart transplant.

★ Floyd W. Pettie was the first black man elected to the Colorado Springs city council.

★ Helicopter strung cable for new aerial tramway over Royal Gorge.

★ US Command in Vietnam confirmed that the war had become the fourth costliest in American history. Recent casualties had increased the total to more than those of the three-year Koren War.

Fifty Years Ago

MARCH 1944

★ A boast that he had made an automobile trip to California and back without gasoline ration stamps resulted in a Colorado Springs Federal employee losing them for the duration.

★ The time was approaching for planting sugar beets in the Fountain Valley, and farmers were concerned about the lack of laborers. They thought it would be necessary to use Mexican nationals and prisoners of war to work the crops.

★ America's most popular violinist, Rubinoff, appeared at the Chief Theatre; his violin was a Stradivarius, made in 1731, valued at $100,000.

★ Weather was the worst it had been, for the Easter Sunrise Service in the Garden Of The Gods, in the twenty-four years it had been held. More than three thousand persons attended, including many soldiers who were trucked in.

★ Members of Sheriff Sam Deal's office, Fire Department No. 4, City Street Department, and the Conscientious Objectors Camp fought a grass fire for an hour and a half on the George W. Strake Glen Eyrie property. The fire blackened over one hundred acres of prairie land. The fire may have started from cigarette butts carelessly tossed on the roadside by two boys.

Seventy Five Years Ago

MARCH 1919

★ The "Stratton Widow" case, the last of all the litigation against the estate of Winfield Scott Stratton, after seven years of fighting, ended when the Colorado Supreme Court handed down a decision which affirmed the verdict of the El Paso County Court (against the "widow").

★ The famous evangelist, Billy Sunday, spoke at the Burns Theatre. His address was to be made in behalf of the Victory Loan Drive, one of two he planned to make in Colorado. He traveled under government auspices.

★ El Paso County men and women who served in the great war were to be given engraved certificates of appreciation, signed by the mayor, the president of the Chamber of Commerce, and the president of the local chapter of the Red Cross. It was estimated that 2,500 certificates would be needed.

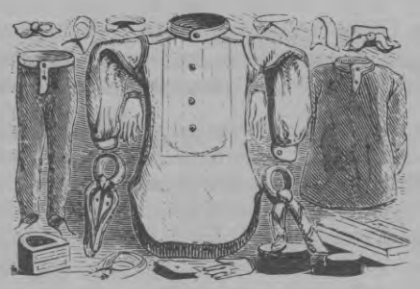
★ Duncan Lamont made improvements on his property at 2222 and 2224 West Kiowa.

★ New books were received at the West end library, by Jeffrey Darnol, Willa Sibert Cather, Grace Hill Lutz, Edith Barnard Delano, James Oliver Curwood, Temple Bailey, A. Conan Doyle, Zane Grey, C. N. & A. M. Williamson, and Albert Wright Catlin. Also included was "Sky Pilot In No Mans Land", by Ralph Conner.

★ In Cripple Creek, Tony Kitzer, a miner working on the aerial tram for the Creason Company was instantly killed when a box of rocks, weighing ten tons, broke from the cable and crushed him beneath it.

★ The dust storm rising from the plains and mesa, mingled with a snow storm at Lake Moraine caused the caretaker at the watershed of the city water department, Clyde McReynolds, to announce that red snow had fallen at the lake. The snow was reddish-brown in color, and when melted, gave off a red water.

JAN KNOX



One Hundred Years Ago

MARCH 1894

★ Yearly salaries for appointive offices, adopted by the Colorado City Board of Trustees: Police Magistrate, $600; Town Marshall, $1000; Policemen, $65; Street Commissioner, $725.

★ From the number of applications for appointive offices, a lively time was promised at the next town board meeting. The ladies seemed to stand about the best show of securing the clerical positions. There were enough candidates for the police force to capture the Denver City Hall...!?

★ Daniel Lamont, US Secretary of War, was a visitor in the city. Mr. Lamont has been on a tour of the West, inspecting military posts.

★ Policeman Woods and James I. Lacey had a 'roundup' on Colorado Avenue, opposite *The Iris* office on Wednesday morning at about three o'clock. Lacey fired a shot at Woods, but accounts of the row differed until a preliminary examination could be conducted.

★ Readers were referred to a free handbook of 'Infermashun' for particulars of the Ladies Guild and the Y.P.S.C.E. Poverty Party to be given the W.C.T.U. hall the next Saturday.

★ M. W. Stone "is certainly a model husband these days while his better half is enjoying the glorious climate of Southern California. Most temporary widowers turn dude as soon as their wives go away, but Milliard is enjoying the opportunity by wearing out his old clothes. He expects to win the prize at the Poverty Party, in his everyday raiment."

★ Colorado City expected to have fewer saloons this year than for a long time; five recently expired licenses were not reopened due to hardtimes.

★ The Florence Railway Company claimed that they would reach Victor by 25 May. The road would have a grade of 4.5% for a considerable distance. A man from the front related that, in one stretch of seven miles, thirty-seven bridges would be required.

It was said that when the average man wanted to visit Cripple Creek, he hung around the courthouse at Colorado Springs until he got on the jury that is sent to camp to examine a mine in litigation; "at any rate their trips are quite frequent nowadays."

★ It was rumored that one of the recently appointed town officers complained because a woman had been appointed Town Treasurer. He said that it would be a great deal of trouble to hunt up a woman to get a warrant registered.

A Road By Any Other Name...

The subject of Doris Wolfe's presentation to the OCCHS on 11 March is a handy gauge for determining how long a person has been a resident here.

The oldtimer may remember it as the Short Line to Cripple Creek. Those who explored area in the 1920s and 1930s call it the Corley Mountain Highway. Most modern residents know it as Gold Camp Road.

But they hold a fondness for it, whether their interests are in railroads, gold-mining, tourism, life at the turn of the century, engineering, or the tantalizing remnants of past glory.

The ultimate irony of the line was that it was built to carry ore from the Gold Camp to the mills at Colorado City. It was a surprise to its sponsors to learn that money could be made showing off the scenic attractions along the way.

Like most programs which feature pictures, it's difficult to summarize. But those familiar with the railroad and highway will no doubt create their own mental picture if we review some of the highlights.

It took fifteen months to build the Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek District railway, which soon became known as the Short Line. It opened for service 08 April 1901. More than most lines, it defied the natural contours to go through or bridge the hills and gullys.

It had moderate success until stiff competition and the World War I years piled up deficits. W. D. Corley bought the railroad for $370,000, tore up the tracks, put railings on the trestles, and made it a toll road ($1 for adults and 50¢ for children) in 1926. In 1939, it became a free road under sponsorship of the Forest Service, El Paso and Teller Counties.

Despite nearly a century, many features of the old road are still with us. Even the most recent visitors can gaze across the expanding town from Point Sublime. St. Peter's Dome and Mt. Rosa are still there for climbing. A few tunnels remain, inviting motorists to honk, either to warn people coming the other way, or to hear a noisy echo.

Like a fading picture, many features have disappeared: trestles, tunnels and settlements. Only a rare oldtimer can point with confidence to the location of Duffield, the Mt. Rosa Wye, Rosemont, Clyde, Cathedral Park, and the former booming gold camps.

Many stations on the railroad were destinations in their own right. Resorts sprang up for fishermen, hikers, and dancers. A zoo and baseball diamond were featured near the gold towns.

There were nine tunnels, all but one of them between Colorado Springs and the Summit. That part of the line went up at a 3.56% grade. Past that point it descended toward the gold mines at 2%. Altogether, 2,404 feet of the roadway went through tunnels, most of which were bored through solid granite with a minimum of timbering. Some of the tunnels and trestles followed the lay of the land and curved slightly.

One of the adventures the earliest patrons could enjoy was to ride a sidecar from Summit to Colorado Springs, downhill all the way.

Ms. Wolfe introduced us to this language-bankrupting journey with a remarkable collection of colored postcards, accompanied by narration and musical score. In many cases she showed the same scene from different time periods, the products of years of study and on-site exploration.

Her extensive photo research is incorporated in her book, "The Gold Camp Road" which carries also displays maps and detailed notes to guide your trip. A mileage guide makes it easy to know where to look, going either direction. She adds many historical details along the way.

The visionaries who built the road were mistaken about many aspects of their project. Transportation of gold ore was useful for only a short term. The need for railroads weakened quickly. Yet, even now men are proposing to do it all over again — reconstruct a railroad to Cripple Creek to mine for tourist gold. Thanks to Ms. Wolfe, we were able to make the journey from the comfort of our meeting room, and readily enjoyed its grandeur.

— *Ralph Conner*

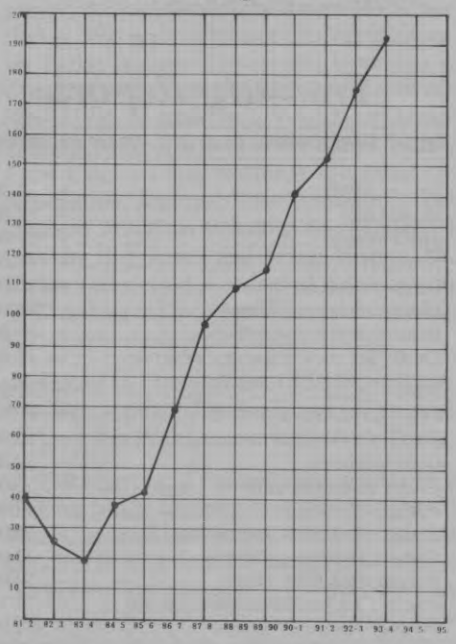
The Tuesday Crew

MILESTONE

The "Tuesday Crew" which processes historic items for preservation in our History Center, passed a milestone on 16 March 1994. Liliane Ross completed the recording of 8,228 historic items given to us at the time of the demise of Luther McKnight in May 1986. Each item is *accessioned* — that is, identified, described, and given an identifying number.

In addition to these items, we're recording 5,000 pieces of sheet music, 15,000 photographs taken on Mr. McKnight's frequent hikes, thousands of maps, books and paper memorabilia, which will become part of our archives. There are other items of no particular historic interest (yet) such as photographic equipment. In additon to this rich treasure, Mr. McKnight and his family made us beneficiaries of $100,000, which made it possible to plan the Old Colorado City History Center. Besides Mrs. Ross, others accessioning on Tuesdays are Ralph Conner, Virginia Cox, Joyce Johns, and Dorothy McGlasson.

Membership Growth



OCCHS Membership has grown from 40 in 1981 to 192.

Treasure Sale

FUNDRAISER

A *Treasure Sale* fundraiser to benefit our History Center will be held at our building — 1 South 24 Street — on Saturday and Sunday, 14 & 15 May.

Donations of furniture, dishes, household items, books, magazines, clothing, jewelry, etc., in good condition, are being accepted.

Anyone willing to assist should please contact CoChairs Kay Arnold at 633-2592 or Jan Knox at 495-3359.

Volunteers are needed for the weeks of 01 - 13 May to help price donated items.

The building will be open from 9 am to 1 pm to receive items on Sat., 30 April; Wed., 04 May; and, Sat., 07 May. To save time in making out receipts, you may wish to itemize donations before bringing them.

For early donations or pickup of heavy items, call Ralph at 634-0895 or Lucille at 630-7578 or Jan & Sandy at 495-3359.

Old Colorado City Historical Society
1 SOUTH 24 STREET COLO SPRINGS CO 80904-3319

WESTWORD

VOLUME IX 01 APR 94 NUMBER 7

PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF ALMOST EVERY MONTH BY THE
OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
OCCHS © 1994
SUBMITTAL DEADLINE : 20TH DAY OF EACH MONTH
EDITED BY : RALPH CONNER & SANDI HOEWISCH

} } } } } } } } MISSION { { { { { { { {

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was formed to maintain the memory of Colorado City [1859-1917], to encourage research, preserve pictures, and keep alive the unique culture and spirit of Westside Colorado Springs, through education of children and the community and through the eventual establishment of a History Center at 1 South 24 Street

} } } } } } MEMBERSHIPS { { { { { {

Memberships are welcome at any time, and are renewed in April. Members receive the *Westword* and local members are phoned prior to meetings if desired.

Annual membership classifications are as follows:

Golden (65+)	$ 5	Family	$ 15
Golden Family	$ 9	Donor	$ 25
Individual	$10	Lifetime	$250

Funds from a Lifetime Membership are placed into a Perpetuity/Endowment Fund to be used only for projects which have been approved by two-thirds of the membership. 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.

} } } } BOARD OF DIRECTORS { { { {

President	Lucille Cunningham	636-9341
Vice President	Jan Knox	495-3359
Secretary	Ralph Conner	634-0895
Treasurer	John Croff	632-2896
	Vera Chambon	634-2340
	Virginia Cox	635-8705
	Orrin Haynes	635-2488
	Sandi Hoewisch	635-2266
	Joyce Johns	635-4649
Publicity	Dorothy McGlasson	632-1932
	Leon Young	633-2621

} } } } } } } MEETINGS { { { { { { {

Meetings are held at 11:00 a.m. the second Friday of each month, excepting June, July, and August. The public is welcome; reservations are not required.

Reservations are required for Luncheon following the meeting. Luncheon cost is usually $5 per person.

Please phone Lyn Owen at 473-1846 by Tuesday prior to meeting. You may leave a message at any time. If you find you cannot attend, please call to cancel.

MEETING THIS MONTH

08 APRIL 94

AT TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
701 NORTH 20 STREET
JUST WEST OF UINTAH GARDENS

MEETING NEXT MONTH : 13 MAY 94

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ONE SOUTH TWENTY-FOURTH STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80904

In Appreciation

SANDI HOEWISCH

We are pleased to acknowledge generous donations of $660.00 toward architect fees from **Joyce Johns**, $62.50 toward raffle permit fee from **Sandy & Jan Knox**, and a cash donation of $25.00 from **Carl Chilcott**.

Treasury Report

DISBURSEMENTS & RECEIPTS AS OF 02-28-94

Interest: PPNB	+	1.39
Memberships	+	55.00
Shirt Proceeds	+	50.00
Notecard Proceeds	+	60.00
Donation from Carl Chilcott	+	25.00
Donation from Joyce Johns •	+	660.00
Donation from Knox Family ••	+	62.50
Credit: Secretary's Expenses carried over	+	17.62
Utilities	–	49.26
Fee: Michael Collins, Architect •	–	660.00
Fee: Raffle Permit ••	–	62.50
Guest Luncheons	–	10.00
Florist: John Keller memorial	–	18.04
Postage: Miscellaneous	–	13.46
Postage: Bulk Rate: January (est)	–	36.00
Postage: Bulk Rate: February	–	34.02
Postage: Bulk Rate: March	–	34.00
Postage: Address Corrections Requested	–	1.74
Printing: Newsletter January	–	107.00
Printing: Newsletter: February	–	70.00
Printing: Newsletter: March	–	70.00

ROLL CALL : 11 MARCH

Fifty members and fifteen visitors signed in at our last meeting.

Ted Alsup
Kay Arnold
Ed Bathke
Nancy Bathke
Sally Brawner
Ed Chonka
Jean Christopher
Ralph Conner
Virginia Cox
Art Crawford
John Croff
Arnold Cunningham
Geraldine Cunningham
Lucille Cunningham
Ed Curry
Martha Curry
Leland Feitz
George Fisher
Bob Gaarder
Loretta Gaarder
Margaret Golden
Eileen Graham
Alfred Hagedorn
John Haney
Marjorie Harris
Orrin Haynes
Catherine Henderson
Ann Hiskey
Joyce Johns
Jan Knox
Sandy Knox
Lance Michels
Lee Michels
Helen Michelson
Dorothy McGlasson
Patricia Neely
Lyn Owen
Louise Parker
J B Parks
Maloa Read
Mel Sinton
Wilma Stephens
David Swearingen
Gene Tarbert
Henry Tiedtke
B E Tillotson
Jean Tillotson
Marty Walker
Pat Walters
Bessie Wreath

VISITORS & GUESTS

J A Emmons
Betty Fisher
Grace Grant
Harold Grant
Ellen Knowlton
Courtney Michels
Bee McClelland
Donald McGilchrist
Howard H Noble
Philip Rector
Barb Schuster
Dave Schuster
Mary Sinton
Doris Wolfe
Wilbur Wolfe