

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1996

An Old Fashioned Sunday in **BANCROFT PARK**



photo by Paul Ideman

Visitors to our "Old Fashioned Sunday Afternoon in the Park" at Bancroft Park on Sunday, August 11th, had a wonderful time. The weather was beautiful and the festivities were enjoyable. The twenty very talented crafters participating in our First Annual Founders' Day Crafts Fair covered a wide variety of items guaranteed to put a dent in your pocketbook! The event was not only fun, it was profitable. We cleared over \$650 to help with the fixed expenses, such as utilities and insurance, for our wonderful History Center.

Jan Knox did a wonderful job putting together every aspect of this event. Without Co-chair Lou Price's expertise in fund raising and his help both before and on Sunday, Founders' Day would not have been the success it was. We were very grateful to receive the help of Tom Capps, manager of the Wendy's Restaurant on Wahsatch for placing hundreds of our flyers in with customer's orders.

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OCCHS President, Dave Hughes, demonstrates the proper method of gold panning for the many Founders' Day visitors. Dave also donated \$250 in gold for the children participating in our Frontier Olympics to "discover".

A PEEK INTO THE PAST OF **DOROTHY ALDRIDGE**

She preferred to call herself "a reporter of the past" rather than a historian, but Dorothy Aldridge McGlasson's love of the Pikes Peak region has provided us with a valuable collection of glimpses into the historic personality of our past.

Reporter, historian, friend and fellow OCCHS member, Dorothy Aldridge, died August 20th, two and a half weeks after slipping into a coma. Many of Dorothy's friends and co-workers gathered at Bambino's, in Old Colorado City, on August 22nd to reminisce and share stories of this caring, dedicated and energetic lady.

Dorothy was born in Colorado Springs on December 13, 1923. She credited her journalism training to her Palmer High School

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Old Colorado City Historical Society Collections

Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

WEST WORD

VOLUME 12 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1996 NUMBER 1

PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF ALMOST EVERY MONTH BY THE
OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
OCCHS ©1996

LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTICLES AND STORIES CAN BE DELIVERED
TO THE OCCHS HISTORY CENTER OR MAILED TO THE EDITOR:

PAUL IDLEMAN c/o OCCHS
1 South 24th Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th DAY OF EACH MONTH.

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 West Side Colorado Springs through education of children and the community and through the eventual establishment of a History Center at One South 24th Street.

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are welcome at any time. Renewal Memberships are due on the anniversary date of the initial Membership. Members receive the *West Word* newsletter, local meetings and programs.

Annual memberships classifications are as follows:

Individual	\$20	Business	\$50
Family	\$25	Corporate	\$250
Lifetime	\$150		

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	David Hughes.....	636-2040
Vice President	Betty Jean Baker.....	633-2350
Secretary	Jan Knox	689-2355
Treasurer	Paul Idleman	633-7803
Past President	Lucille Cunningham ...	630-7578
	Jim Ciletti	520-0696
	Beverly Disch	634-5023
	Christine Heinich	448-9001
	Robert Heinich	448-9001
	Mel McFarland.....	533-1311
	Leon Young	633-2621

MEETINGS

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

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

Please phone Margaret Gould at 390-8960 by the Wednesday prior to the meeting. If you find you cannot attend, be sure to cancel before 5:00 PM Wednesday or send someone in your place, as you will be charged for the luncheon reservation.

MEETING THIS MONTH

SEPTEMBER 13, 1996 - 11:00 a.m.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
701 N. 20th Street
(JUST WEST OF UINTAH GARDENS)

NEXT MEETING - October 11, 1996

MY MOUNTAIN (Pikes Peak)

by Maloa Current Read

The mountain greets me every day
When rosy morn delights the sky
Or blue with silver sparkling there
When winds of blustery winter sigh.

My vantage point affords me with
A sight of special symmetry,
A jewel seated in a crown,
Resplendent there for all to see.

From eastern plains the broader view
Shows Cameron's Cone as sentinel.
Our mountain slopes on down the range.
Of this sight young Zeb Pike would tell.

Come with me now and walk the trail.
Up past the timber line. By then
Your boots will start to slow you down.
Each breath's a fight for oxygen.

The summit house is reached at last.
In midnight chill we sit and rest
Among a group of prostrate forms.
We've joined the mountain's other guests.

First light reveals the rocky dome,
Shows velvet hills of lesser height
Subservient to this famous crest.
We wax ecstatic at the sight.

The oceans have charm all their own,
And they are wonderful to see.
But I feel kinship to this peak
And know that it's a part of me.

OCCHS FALL TREASURE SALE

Please donate any unwanted items (except clothes, shoes & magazines) to our Fall Treasure Sale. Sale dates are October 5th & 12th. Items will be accepted at the History Center beginning September 23rd.

All proceeds benefit The History Center
call Kay Arnold - 633-2592 for information.

MAIL BOX

Dear West Word,

I am enclosing a poem about Pikes Peak. Not only is it "my mountain" but "our mountain" since the whole area is famous for it. If you have a vacant space sometime perhaps you could fit it in.

West Word is looking great — more personal and full of news. You do a great job!

Maloa Current Read
Colorado Springs, CO

We always enjoy your poetry, Maloa. Thank you for sharing them with us. Putting West Word together is an enjoyable project and it is looking great because of you and your brothers and all the OCCHS members who contribute to it.

"MY MOUNTAIN (Pikes Peak)" is printed on the previous page. If our readers would like to tell us how they enjoy Maloa's poem or anything else in West Word, please write us at West Word, 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319.

Dear OCCHS Members,

I am sending in my dues and also \$2.00 for a directory. I always enjoy so much getting the newsletter. Everything else has to wait while I sit down and read it front to back.

I was very much interested in the picture of the Golden Cycle Mill, but that is not Whittier School in the picture, it is Longfellow. That is the neighborhood where I grew up and started to school. We used to play in the sand at the Mill. It was probably the 1800 and 1900 blocks. I lived in the 2000 block of Cucharas, and started to school at Longfellow, which was in the 2000 block of Pikes Peak. Whittier was about 2900 either on Kiowa or Bijou (not sure which). I lived there before West Junior was built and I also attended West Junior after it was built. We moved to Colorado Springs in 1918 and I left there in 1944.

Every time I get a newsletter I get a little nostalgic. You had a picture in there one time of Anna Ray's grocery store. My husband's family lived by that store for many years and one of

my daughters was born in one of the houses shown in that picture. It was many years after that picture was taken, however.

During the Depression my husband used to go up to Anna Ray's ranch on the weekend with her to work and took his pay in groceries. He did that for several months.

No matter how long I am away from there it still seems like home, so keep up the interesting newsletters! It would be fun to be a volunteer in the Society.

Lola (Cooper) Crane Stone
Cottage Grove, OR

Thanks, Lola. Your remembrances are part of what makes West Word so interesting. Please send more whenever you have the time.

Dear OCCHS,

We were in Old Colorado City last week and were told of your location. We drove by and cannot tell you how much we admire your new center. We only wish you had been open that day.

My Father was born in Old Colorado City in 1903 and we would be very interested in acquiring historical data of the city. Perhaps you have a list of materials available including books. If so, I would appreciate you forwarding a copy to me.

Corliss Ries
Scribner, NE

Please stop again, Corliss, during your next visit here. We plan to be open after December 1st. You should have received, by now, a copy of our previous newsletter and a list of books in our Book Store.

Dear OCCHS,

Enclosed is my check in memory of my long-time friend, Dorothy McGlasson. Spend it however you wish on your restoration project or however. I'd known Dorothy for years and was shocked at her untimely death.

Eleanor Fry
Pueblo, CO

Because of Dorothy's involvement

with our Society, we've received several donations in her honor. Dorothy was also a big supporter of the Humane Society and they have also received many donations in her name. Thank you to everyone. All donations to OCCHS in memory of Dorothy Aldridge McGlasson will be place in our Endowment Fund.

COMING EVENTS

September 13, 1996

"Three Generations of Family Quilts" — Lois Jackson

October 5 and 12, 1996

Fall "Treasure" Sales, at the History Center **

October 11, 1996

"100th Anniversary of the Leadville Ice Palace" — Darlene Weir Godat

November 8, 1996

"Faith in High Places" — Mary Jane Rust

November 9, 10, 11, 1996

First Annual Fall Crafts Fair at the History Center **

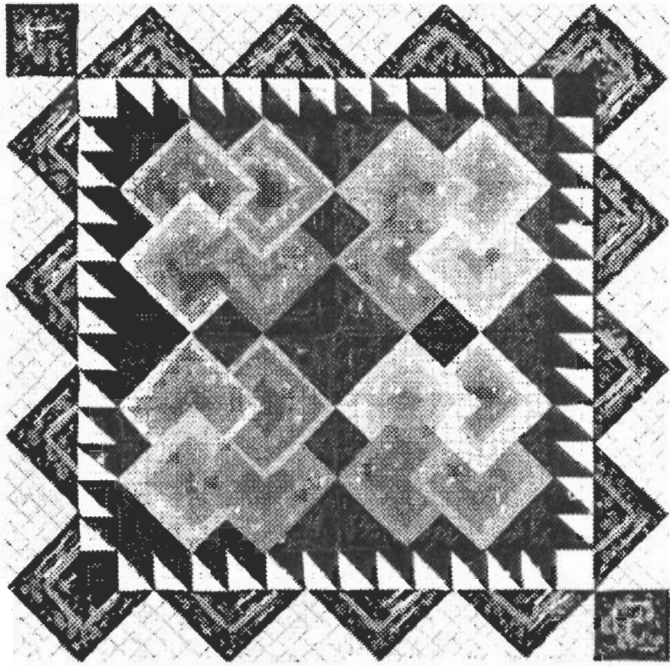
December 1, 1996

Second Annual Christmas Victorian Bed & Breakfast Tour **

**** Volunteers are needed to help with these events. Call Kay Arnold at 633-2592 to volunteer for the "Treasure" Sales, Jan Knox at 689-2355 to help with the Crafts Fair; and Betty Baker at 633-2350 if you can help for the B&B Tour.**

OUR SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

3 Generations Of Family Quilts



Some of us may be fortunate enough to possess a very special quilt, pieced together by a family member who lived long ago. Looking at this quilt can bring back many fond memories, like a patchwork quilt of the mind.

Our next program on Friday, September 13th, at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Methodist Church, 701 North 20th Street (just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center) will be presented by **Lois Jackson**. She will share with us twenty of her forty-five quilts and tell the stories of quilts which

were sewn together with love and purpose. Her quilts will help us all recall our own roots and remember a time when simple pleasure brought a special kind of joy to quilt makers.

Lois, under the instruction of her paternal grandmother, pieced together her first nine-patch quilt when she was only 8 years old. That same summer, her maternal grandmother taught her to quilt. Together, they hooked her on quilting for a lifetime. Her quilt collection dates from 1870 to the present. She now educates individuals and groups on the art of quilting.

Mrs. Jackson is a native Coloradan. Born in La Junta, Colorado, she moved to Victor at age 11 where her father found work in the gold mines for \$2.75 per day. Lois attended Lamar Junior College and returned to Cripple Creek to work as a nurse's aid. She raised her three boys on a ranch near Elbert, Colorado, before moving to Colorado Springs.

Besides quilting, Lois finds pleasure in gardening, crewel embroidery, playing the organ and enjoying her three grandchildren.

You're sure to enjoy this unique and fascinating program. Remember guests are always welcome at our meetings, so invite a friend along to "make a memory for tomorrow."

Following the program, lunch is available for \$5 per person. Reservations for lunch are due by 5:00 p.m., September 11, 1996. Call **Margaret Gould, 390-8960**. PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS A NEW RESERVATIONS NUMBER AND PERSON TO CALL, IF YOU WISH TO HAVE LUNCH.

by Jan Knox

FOR YOUR INTEREST

"Treasure" Sales

Our successful summer Treasure Sale netted over \$630 for our Center thanks to the hard work of our Vice-President, **Betty Baker**, who chaired the event, and **Kay Arnold, Bev Disch, Jean Christopher, Lois Carr, and Shirley Waller**. They spent many volunteer hours collecting and pricing our sales items and working the sale on three different Saturdays. Thanks to all for a job well done.

Our next Treasure Sale is scheduled for

October 5th and October 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the History Center. **Kay Arnold** and **Jan Knox** are Co-Chairing the committee. As has been often said, one person's "junk" is another person's "treasure", so start looking around your closets, attics, cupboards and basement and see what "junk" you could donate for the sales. We cannot accept clothes, shoes, or magazines but anything else will work - furniture, books,

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The first summer in Old Colorado City with our History Center building about finished has been very active. We can already see how popular the Center is going to be, for meetings and programs, as well as museum displays, research and book store browsing.

Now that the peak of summer-time events is over, we have much work to do in accessioning our store rooms of historical artifacts, and designing and putting up displays so that we can open as a proper museum. We need volunteers for both the Accessioning and Exhibits committees. Until we can find such volunteers to add to the handful of hardworking ones who helped with events, inside work, and the book store all summer long, we simply are not going to be able to open the center to the public. Our goal is to open our doors on a regular basis by December 1st.

Here are a few highlights to bring you up to date with what has gone on this summer. The final application of polyethylene coating was put on our beautiful hardwood floor just before High Park Productions rented our space for the first time. They put on a 3-hour 'reading' of their musical "*Bobby Womack and the City of Gold*" before an invited crowd of 50. Together with the cast of 20, it was clear the Center can comfortably seat 75 people for our own monthly meetings or for special programs. Of course the display cases have to be made mobile, but it is clear we have a very flexible space.

Jan Knox reports on our successful Founders Day celebration elsewhere in this *West Word*. I was please to see that event attract new members, some of whom had relatives who lived in Colorado City as far back as 1860. And many came into the Center Bookstore and purchased books and papers. The *real* "goldpanning" outside

our center was very popular and drew people from across the street at the park to the center.

Our Treasure Sales held at the same time as the Farmer's Market on Saturdays proved very successful. **Betty Baker** chaired this event that was held on three different Saturdays. Thanks to Betty's efforts, the Society gained \$630.

Jean Christopher and **Bev Disch** sallied forth on many walking tours, earning our Society needed funds. Thanks to you both.

Our society applied for a modest (\$15,000) grant from the National Science Foundation for technical equipment that will permit us to link the our history, the History Center, Book Store, and even our displays wirelessly, (no telephone costs) to the world-wide Internet. That is still pending.

And we got a \$500 grant from Norwest Bank for a security system and service. Thanks to **Sandy Knox** for his grant writing skills.

It was sadly ironic that **Dorothy Aldridge**, whose newly published history of Colorado City helped inaugurate the use of our Center, passed on just as we are starting to come into our own as a Society. She will be sorely missed. Already several individuals have informally made donations to the Society in her name.

As I said when I accepted the Society Presidency on an interim basis only, I will be stepping down as we move into the normal winter season. I will concentrate my efforts on bringing the computer communications arm of the Center up to the full potential that will help us broadcast the exciting history of Colorado City to the entire world. This will generate even more traffic to the Center from afar, and needed funds to operate our new baby.

Dave Hughes
President

SEND YOUR IDEAS FOR OUR TIME CAPSULE

The patio at our History Center is beginning to take shape (see story by Lucille Cunningham on back page). Part of our renovation project includes placing a 'time capsule' under the commemorative inscribed bricks in the center of our courtyard. Dave Hughes had a wonderful capsule constructed

for us and we plan to have a ceremony to bury it for future generations. What should we place in the capsule? We're asking all OCCHS members for their ideas. Please mail your suggestions to OCCHS, Time Capsule, 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319.

A PEEK INTO THE PAST

by Dorothy Aldridge

In Tribute to Our
Friend and Fellow
Historian, we
present a few of
Dorothy's Special
Stories.

Gin Mill

During 1869-1870, an important event in the history of every new Western town took place in Pueblo.

Jack Allen arrived and established the first gin mill. The distillery from which Jack purchased his whiskey, the only liquor which the pioneers of Southern Colorado considered fit for men to drink, no longer exists.

Tradition has it that his fine old private stock was manufactured from alcohol, chili, Colorado tobacco, Arkansas water, old boots, aqua fortes, rusty bayonets, soap weed and cactus thorns.

In the language of the pioneers, it was good liquor, because it cut like a three-cornered file as it went down.

The delay, which often happened to the ox teams from the East, never affected Jack's supply of whiskey. Sometimes the supply would give out, but the whiskey famine was only temporary and in an hour or two his bottles would be replenished, though no supplies had arrived in the settlement for a month. The whiskey always had the same flavor and the same startling effect upon the drinker.

In addition to his gin mill, Jack kept a small stock of bacon, beans, etc. One day a stranger came along with a team and going into Jack's place purchased a large side of bacon, paying for it at the rate of seventy-five cents a pound. The purchaser fastened the bacon to the back of his wagon and went around the house to get some water. After he disappeared, Jack remarked to some bystanders that it was "a damned shame that one man should have so much bacon when so many other good men needed it."

So he deliberately cut off about half of the side and carried it back into his house. The purchaser did not discover the theft and drove off down the river (road). *Pueblo Lore, July 1980.*

Fashions 1880's Style

The Magnet, a publication filled with a variety of advertisements and a scattering of news and columns, was published in Colorado Springs in the 1880's. It was free to the public.

In the October 8, 1881 edition, C. C. Clark of Clark and Company, a local business, shared fashion trends of the day with Colorado Springs readers in a column titled "Fashion Notes" as follows:

"Red and green will be the fashionable contrast of colors."

"Double French and fancy shaded (ostrich) plums and tips are preferred to flowers and ornaments (on hats)."

"Olive green, myrtle green, olive brown and bronze in all shades, seem to permeate nearly all kinds of hat trimmings."

"Mole skin plush is one of the new novelties and shades, and makes a beautiful trimming for hats."

"Watered silk and shaded plushes are much used, especially in New York and Philadelphia,

on new costumes and head-dresses."

Readers were advised through an advertisement elsewhere in *The Magnet* that "One dollar will buy a new and stylish trimmed hat at Clark and Company."

Shoppers could find "Millinery and Fancy Goods! No. 42 South Tejon Street. Fancy goods, laces, Zephyrs, and trimmings. New and latest styles of hats and bonnets. I have a No. 1 trimmer."

Mrs. Thornburg advertised: "Millinery! Fall Stock Just Received. Specialty made of Hair Goods."

To find something to wear with her new hat, a lady was invited to "Go to Giddings and Stillman for cloaks and Dolmans, the very best assortment in Colorado Springs."

Walloping Winds!

Early on, Colorado pioneers discovered that snowplows were ineffective when it came to removing sand blown by strong winds over railroad tracks. *The Pueblo Chieftain* reported on this and other wind-related difficulties in two articles published in 1890.

The wind had been blowing all afternoon at the Monument Depot on January 25th. At 7:00 p.m. the Salt Lake train No. 2 was bound for Denver when the two coaches and a sleeper—the entire train—were blown over flat on their sides. The train caught fire but trainmen rescued the twenty passengers. There were some injuries.

The Atlantic Express, southbound, was delayed for hours by sand drifting on the track near the Pring Station, an Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad station three miles south of Monument. It was reported that snowplows didn't work well with sand and that section crews were called to shovel the sand from the cuts.

On January 29th, the *Chieftain* reported that the wind in the Cucharras Valley had blown so hard lately that the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad had been forced to spike down its ties and rails with long hickory poles to keep them from being blown away.

The previous week, it had taken five hours for one D&RG passenger train to move four miles, because the track was covered with sand. The pesky stuff covered the track faster than the sixty

men in the shovel brigade could remove it.

A high wind which had picked up considerable dust broke out window glass in Pueblo on February 10. A street car was blown over, and a railroad box car was blown out to the main track where it was hit by a locomotive.

Strong winds, always a way of life in Colorado, may have blown a bit stronger in 1890 than at present.

Resurrection Time!

Word of John Himebaugh's death was slightly exaggerated. For many years he was the well-known manager of the Spaulding House and the Alamo Hotel, two of the first hostelries built in Colorado Springs.

The Alamo hotel was on the northwest corner of Tejon and Cucharras Streets. The Spaulding House was across Cucharras Street from the Alamo Hotel.

Himebaugh was a Union veteran of the Civil War. In his advanced years he resided at a soldier's home in California. One day, the wire services carried notices of his death, saying that he had been a pioneer resident of Colorado Springs.

A few weeks later, he walked into the news room of the morning *Gazette* and introduced himself to the late T. Wynne Ross, city editor, as John Himebaugh.

"You mean John Himebaugh's ghost, don't you?" asked the astonished Ross, springing up from his chair.

"No, Himebaugh in the flesh," said the ex-hotel manager. "You see, I haven't been dead at all."

He explained that another old soldier at the institution where he lived had died and that a mistake had been made in the records.

"Well," said Ross, "for goodness sakes, why didn't you notify us of the mistake sooner, so that a correction could have been published?"

"I thought," said Himebaugh, "it might be just as well to let people think I was dead for a while, and find out what they would say about me."

"Were the comments satisfactory?" asked Ross.

"I can't say that they were altogether so," replied Himebaugh. "At any rate, I would appreciate it if you would now bring me back to life again."

—Lee Spaulding's diary



Founders' Day would not have been a success without the help of our own member volunteers. **Bev Disch** called on **Cyndy Estes**, **Madeline Keas**, **Jean Christopher** and **Maloa Read** to work at the History Center Book & Gift Shop. **Kay Arnold**, **Liz Geiss** and **Mel McFarland**, our own Colorado Midland conductor dressed in his uniform, greeted the many visitors to the cabin. Mel also dressed up the cabin with many of his Midland oil paintings.

We really appreciate **Larry Borchert** for loaning his 'Pikes Peak or Bust' covered wagon to us again. **Bethany Baptist Church** allowed us to borrow their folding chairs to set up in the park. **Sandy Knox** and **Paul Idleman** worked up a real sweat picking up and delivering those items for us.



Photographs by Paul Idleman

Our first "*Frontier Olympics*", featuring watermelon seed spitting, ring toss, 3-legged races, sack races, and gold panning, was a big hit with the kids from 5 to 12 years old. The winners in the three age categories enjoyed their prizes, too - toys donated by crafters **Kathy Murray**, **Kathleen Malcolmson** and **Mary Porter-Ann Marshall** and many items purchased by our Founders' Day chairperson, **Jan Knox**. **Sharon Bieszk**, **Stephen Peacore**, **Leisa Watson**, and **Debbie Weaver** did a great job running the "*Frontier Olympics*" for us. The balloon animals were once again made by **Suzanne Kall** and **Katy Faykosh**. They always donate all the money they receive to the History Center. **Marica Hefti** once again handled the face painting requests from the many children there. Special thanks to **Marion Steavenson**. She came to check out the our Crafts Fair and graciously accepted being drafted to give one of the crafters a break.

Dave Hughes set up the goldpanning display and supplied the gold flakes and nuggets which the lucky panners could keep. With the assistance of his wife, **Patsy**, and treasure hunter/archeologist, **Frank Kazee**, Dave also handled the goldpanning education and competition. **Jim Mahon** of the **Tumbleweed Trading Post** in Manitou Springs and fellow gunfighters known as "**Guns for Hire**" performed three of their gunfighter skits to the delight of everyone. The group uses humor and education making "**Guns For Hire**" a show not to be missed.

The band shell in Bancroft Park was the center

FOUNDERS' DAY IN BANCROFT PARK



(photographs clockwise beginning upper left on previous page) Mel McFarland and Kay Arnold greet visitors to the cabin at Bancroft Park; Tyler (age 8) 'launches' his watermelon seed; Guns For Hire pose between skits; the first leg of the 3-legged race; Chairperson, Jan Knox, coordinated this multi-event celebration; thank you OCCHS member, Marica Hefti, of Studio 10-0-5, who kept busy with face painting all day; some future prospectors practice at our goldpanning exhibit.

for some very talented entertainment. Our own Bud and Jo Walker performed traditional cowboy tunes to the delight of everyone there. Don Moon, Mike Stevens and all the actors with Red Herring Productions performed a new audience participation western mystery. The setting for the who-done-it was in Old Colorado City. George Douthit, Sr. and George Douthit, Jr. and the cast of the new musical "Bobby Womack & the City of Gold" gave the first public performance of the musical numbers from that show. This is a very, very talented production and many listeners can't wait to see the entire production next August at



the Fine Arts Center. All of these groups helped our fund raising efforts by performing for free. Thanks to Bob Gentile and the bands, Fortress and 11th Hour for providing some great music for the younger set.

A big, big thank you to Dennis Ritchie and Pikes Peak National Bank for answering Jan's last minute plea for a donation to underwrite the bands and sound system. Their check, with donations from Jan Knox and Lou Price, paid for the bands.

Kathy Hruban of Kris Kringle, Ltd. supplied the Victorian doll house, complete with furniture, landscaping and Grandma, which we displayed in our main History Center room.

Thank you to everyone involved. A special thanks to the wonderful Melva Touchette, who came over from Leadville again and gave three performances of her celebrated one-woman play "Baby Doe Tabor" in the History Center on Saturday and Sunday. Once again, her efforts have helped our History Center fund.

A committee is forming to work on a bigger and better, "Founders' Day 1997". This big event needs more help from our members. If you



WEST SIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS



compiled by Jan Knox

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

August/September 1896

* Troop A of the State militia is no more. Last evening it was officially mustered out of service. There is a big row on and the members of the troop are the maddest men in town.

* Saturday evening about 8 o'clock while a terrific storm was raging, a house occupied by colored "ladies" on railroad street was struck by lightning and set on fire. The fire boys were soon on hand and put out the fire before any serious damage was done. The house was flooded with water and the inmates sought shelter elsewhere.

* All agreements toward a settlement of the war between the Midland and the Midland Terminal railroads are again off. It was thought last week that their grievances would be settled and Cripple Creek business resumed.

* Watermelon day occurs this year on Thursday, September 3, and the citizens of Rocky Ford are making unusual preparations to entertain a large number of visitors. The usual low excursion rates on the Santa Fe will prevail.

* The war is over. Colorado Springs is to retain its old time favorite militia organization, and Troop A will be mustered in again next Thursday. Troop A will hence forth be genuine horse soldiers upon all occasions. The State promised new saddles, bridles, sabers, and new model rifles sufficient for sixty men. Each member will be required to provide a regular mount, and the mounted drills will be held at least twice a month.

* I. R. Bowen, John Fox and Douglas Worley have discovered ore in Bear Creek that is worth finding. At a depth of two feet the ore assayed \$2.20 and at a depth of about eight feet they secured ore assaying \$11.00. The vein is four feet wide and is known as the Jay Hawk lode. The "boys" are well pleased

with their prospect and will continue developing the mine.

* The party of fifteen "boys and girls" which left for the top of Pike's Peak Saturday evening, returned home Sunday afternoon. Fourteen of the party reached the summit in time to see the sun rise.

* Owing to extensive washouts west of Pueblo, the D. & R. G. Railroad company ran its trains over the Midland today.

* The Bennett dog and pony show has pitched its tent opposite the Bancroft school and will give an exhibition this evening.

* The building used as a slaughter house on the Bear creek road was hauled through town today to the vicinity of the Garden of the Gods.

* Edward O. Wolcott, United States Senator from Colorado, will speak at the Colorado Springs Coliseum on Tuesday evening, September 15, under the joint auspices of the McKinley and Hobart clubs of Colorado Springs, Colorado City, and Manitou. Arrangements are being made to accommodate the largest crowd ever assembled at a political meeting in Colorado. Cook's celebrated drum corps, the Colorado Springs and the Midland bands will furnish the music. One thousand umbrellas bearing the pictures of McKinley and Hobart have been ordered to be carried in the procession which will receive the Senator when he arrives from Denver.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

August/September 1921

* Lieutenant V. J. Meloy, army aviator accompanied by Corp. R. F. Allen, yesterday morning hung up a new altitude record for the Pikes Peak region when they lifted a huge De Haviland bomber 11,000 feet above the ground here, in a flight over the summit of the Peak. It took the flyers 35 minutes to reach the

necessary height and circle the peak, and 50 minutes after they left the Monee Cave flying field east of the city they had landed there again.

* In a list of 150 questions propounded by Thomas Edison, was "Why can't eggs be boiled on the top of Pikes Peak?". O. W. Stewart of this city, pointedly brought out the fact that Mr. Edison was either mistaken or had laid a very poor trap, as boiled eggs are sold daily over the counter at the summit house that are boiled on the crest of the peak.

* King Fun reigned supreme last night at the eleventh annual Shan Kive. Jubilant, laughing, confetti-throwing throngs, several thousand in number, bedecked in myriad colored costumes, celebrated with music, vaudeville stunts and dancing under the flickering lights of Kiowa street, between Tejon and Nevada avenue. There was even a grand ball with prizes for the fancy dancing.

* Six inches of snow fell on Pikes Peak yesterday (8/14). The highway to the top is open and local tourist companies report an unusual demand for trips today. Tourists are anxious to witness the unusual event in hot August.

* Homer H. Grafton, a resident of the Pikes Peak region and Manitou since 1882, died at his home there yesterday. For several years he was the proprietor and editor of the Manitou Journal. He had also held the position of Manitou Town Clerk and Recorder and Mayor. He was elected to the Colorado legislature in 1888 and was closely connected with the establishment of the State Teachers' college at Greeley. He was appointed postmaster of Manitou in 1890 and served until 1919. At the time of his death he was the president of the school board.

* With 40 of the most important chiefs of the Pueblo tribe in attendance, the three-day ceremonial at the Cliff Dwellings in Manitou is under way. All day Friday and yesterday the Indians were going through the mysteries of

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

the Sun dance, the Moon dance, the Corn dance and the weird Eagle dance. Thousands of spectators were in attendance at the various dances which were given in public, and another record-breaking crowd is expected today when the closing ceremonies will be held. The affair is the annual feast day of the Pueblo tribe and virtually every Indian of prominence in the tribe is here for the occasion.

* The day the kids have been looking forward to has arrived. For today the circus comes to town—in no time at all, the Yampa grounds located on Royer street between Yampa and Uintah streets will be covered with 15 acres of tents and preparations for the 22 block long parade will be under way. Four hundred performers, attired in gorgeous spangled costumes, some riding beautiful horses or mounted on hulking elephants, along with the menagerie containing all sorts of strange jungle creatures will be seen and heard. Not the least of the attractions are the 55 clowns, headed by the Hanneford troupe of riders, with “Poodles”, the great equestrian clown, formerly starring at the New York Hippodrome.

* Warren C. Dockum is critically ill at his home in Ivywild as a result of a stroke. Four days before Lee surrendered, he was in a skirmish during which he single-handedly captured the Confederate's regimental battle flag. After peace was declared, he was summoned from his Saratoga, N.Y. home to Washington D. C. and presented the Congressional Medal of Honor by Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, in front of President Lincoln and the members of the cabinet. He has been a Colorado resident for 16 years. Several years ago he sold his ranch on the Canon City road to Spencer Penrose and has been living in Ivywild since that time.

* Tomorrow and for two days, Colorado Springs will be a cow town, while cowboys, Indians, visitors and citizens, from the richest to the poorest, hit the trail to the Western Aircraft field northeast of town and eagerly await the

signal to “Let ‘er buck!” The parade for the first of the roundups ever held in this city will form up at 10 a.m. To make sure there is plenty of the wild west color and sound in the parade, the Chamber of Commerce will supply 3,000 rounds of ammunition, not a round of which is less than .38 caliber. The noise from this amount of ammunition being shot off in less than an hour will rival a busy day in the trenches back in ‘18. The whoop of the Indian, the swish of the lariat, and the “y-e-ci-i-p” of the cowpuncher, and the rumble of the stage coach will be familiar sounds to the old-timers who were here 40 years ago when this city was a frontier village.

* Chief White Eagle, otherwise known as Spencer Penrose, was initiated into the Sioux tribe by Chief Iron Bull, who was here along with 20 other Indians for the roundup.

* All roads led to Pikes Peak yesterday for the race to the top. An estimated 10,000 motorists from all parts of the state saw King Rhiley from Grand Island, Nebraska, capture the classic climb up Pikes Peak in the fast time of 19:16 1/4. The daring pilot had several narrow escapes from being wrecked as he sped up the course to the summit. He walked away with the \$10,000 Penrose trophy, which goes to the car of any class or event, that makes the fastest time.

* City officials plan to have the paving of Colorado avenue be the first work taken up in 1922. It is hoped to have this main channel of traffic connected up with the paving already laid between West Colorado Springs and Manitou before the tourist season opens next year.

* A Lincoln plane, piloted by Billy Wilson, an army flier from San Antonio, left Colorado Springs yesterday morning for Cripple Creek to assist in the official opening of the Teller County fair. After circling the crowd and pulling stunts, he returned to Colorado Springs. It was the first time an airplane had been over Cripple Creek in the history of the famous mining town.

* Seventy-two year old, Tommy Ryan, ex-middleweight boxing champion of the world, spoke yesterday to High School students on “The Benefits of a Clean Life.” Mr. Ryan has been out of the ring for 20 years. He will appear again at the school to stage a demonstration with the same equipment he used training Jim Jeffries.

* Residents of the West Side who make use of the recently completed suspension bridge over Monument creek at Pikes Peak avenue are delighted with the new structure which has withstood the recent high waters without injury. The bridge was erected through the efforts of residents of the West Side when the city council decided it could not afford to build an under crossing at Kiowa street which has recently been thrown open to traffic. The material was furnished by the city at a cost of \$120 and the labor by those interested in having the old footbridge replaced with a better structure. F. R. Girardin, 8 North Pine street, should get much of the credit for the building of the bridge as he did most of the carpentry work and also applied two coats of battleship gray paint. It was decided that Pikes Peak avenue was a more convenient location than the original idea of Kiowa street. The new bridge is 60 feet in length, of the suspension type with the cables anchored in concrete “dead men.” It is 11 feet above the bed of Monument creek. At least 500 persons make use of the bridge each day.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

August/September 1946

* Elcano Shideler, local traffic man for 51 years, retired Monday. A resident of this city since 1895, he has seen the various transit changes here in that time. Forty years ago, after the large cars came in, it was common for a conductor to ring up 100 fares on a trip to Stratton Park or Manitou, and on some trips it would be double that number. In the early days, the horse car stopped in front of the Henry Coby saloon in Old Town, and in Manitou—it was not Manitou Springs then—the electric

con't on next page

cars stopped near the Albrecht saloon, not far from the old Rio Grande depot. People had to walk a few blocks to get to the business section of the town. The one-man cars followed the two-man cars and the buses followed the one-man cars. Not many of the old-time street railway men of 40 to 50 years ago are still in the local service.

* George A. Hopper, 81, died at the Veterans' Hospital, Fort Lyons, last week. He was a resident of Colorado City and the West Side for 35 years (formerly residing at 2820 W. Colorado avenue), and a brother of the late Thomas Hopper, long-time business man here. He was a veteran of the Spanish-American War.

* Though the same age—82—Frank Ferris, 2320 West Pikes Peak avenue, and Jim Ferris, 1713 West Colorado avenue, are not twins - neither are they any relation, but both are old-timers in Old Town. Jim has been here 60 years, coming from Davis county, Iowa. Frank came from Stamford, Conn., in the eighties. Frank is an old railroad man, first working for the Colorado Midland as a trainman, and later as a conductor on the Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog railway. He regaled the passengers in a jolly way about the beauty and grandeur of the Pikes Peak region in general and the Cog road route in particular. Jim is an old-time barber, who used to take pride in dolling up his customers in Old Town, one of whom was George F. Geiger, now a resident of California. While here three weeks ago, George called on Jim for a hirsute trim; but Jim was too nervous to tackle the job, so they visited and reminisced about bygone days in Old Town.

* Charles B. Myles, long-time resident and official of Colorado City, now residing in Ivywild, was on the West Side Tuesday. Though past four score years, he looks quite well and is real active for a person of his age. Forty years ago, Charlie was street commissioner of Colorado City and was a busy man. In those days there was no pavement. There were cobblestone gutters and

large trees on each side of Colorado avenue through the business district. Water from the El Paso irrigating canal ran down the avenue to keep the trees growing. The double street railway lines on Colorado avenue made quite a problem, for when the street was muddy, it was difficult to drive over the tracks. In 1904, Charlie had the avenue in the business district plowed up and graded. Before his city jobs, he was a Colorado Midland railway employee, losing his right arm in an accident.

* R. T. L. Godfrey, 92, 2907 W. Kiowa, died Saturday. He was a retired druggist. Over 40 years ago, he bought the building at 2506 West Colorado Ave., where he conducted a drug store until selling out to the late Fred F. Koch. Godfrey Hall has been a well-known lodge room for 40 years or more. He came to this city in 1890. Surviving are his wife, Fannie, a daughter, Mrs. Clara Magers, and a granddaughter, Mrs. Rae M. Cross.

* Mr. and Mrs. George Spielman, 311 North 23rd St., will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on September 13th. The couple was married at the ranch home of Mr. and Mrs. David Spielman, who came here in 1859 and who lived for years on a ranch near Woodland Park. George Spielman was in the livery business during the Cripple Creek boom days and later was engaged in cattle ranching. A sister of Mrs. Spielman, Mrs. George Ricken, who was bridesmaid at the wedding, will be present for the celebration.

* The Colorado Springs Independent has been out of the juvenile class for almost half a century, being a continuation of the Colorado City Iris and the Colorado City Argus. In 1883, the Iris was started. One of the first owners of the Iris was W. P. (Bill) Epperson who came here from Illinois. He died in Kaysville, Utah, years ago. One of the first owners of the Argus was J. O. Chase, who has been gone a long time. In 1920 the Iris and the Argus were combined at 10 and 12 South Twenty-fifth Street, under the name of

Independent. The plant was moved to the present location nearly three years ago. On the east side of the second story of the brick building at 2532 West Colorado Avenue, the name The Iris is still there. That is where the shop was in the early days.

* Old Town Bill O'Brien, the typographer, has some ranch out on North Nineteenth Street (1006 N. 19th) He has lots of ground, plenty of farm equipment and sufficient ambition, so when not at work at a typesetting machine, he is busy on his ranch, where he raises quite a bit of things. Bill grew up in Old Town. He and Frank Stark, another Colorado Cityan, both got their first typographical experience on the Manitou Springs Journal, when Frank Butler was publishing that paper.

* About 35 years ago, Colorado City had a bad livery stable fire, in which about 40 head of horses were lost. The frame building was just east of the McDonald & Huff brick, and was owned by Jack Ridenour and Ed Rettiger. The fire occurred in the early morning. A lot of range horses had been brought in the day before. In the rear of the building there were so many horses that in places the bodies were against each other. The dead animals were dragged to a gulch just west of Ramona and left to rot. Bones may still be there. The place was afterward known as Dead Horse Gulch.

* Some residents were puzzled a few days ago when several men were taking measurements around the Waycott block at Twenty-fifth street and Colorado avenue. No one asked and nobody knew outside the participants, the cause of the acts. The block was erected about 50 years ago by Ernest Waycott, a Colorado City pioneer contractor and builder, who moved to Fort Collins nearly 40 years ago, where he died some years later. The second story of the block contained an opera house and the third floor a lodge hall. The Waycott family home was at what is now 1 South Twenty-fifth street, just across the alley north of the block.

records, household items of any type, etc. Items will be accepted starting September 23rd. Volunteers are needed to help price items and to help with customers on the days of the sales. Call **Kay Arnold, 633-2592**, if you have items to donate or wish to volunteer. These events are being held to benefit the History Center Fund.

GRANTS

The Old Colorado City Historical Society has received two additional grants from the **State Historic Preservation Fund** (this money comes from a percentage of Colorado's receipts from casino revenue). A mini-grant of \$5,000 was received to start on the process of inventorying and archiving our large photo collection.

We have also been notified of the approval of our grant request of \$28,195 to restore the choir loft on the west wall of the main room in the History Center. This will be used for additional display space and possibly as a location for small dramatic or choral performances. The Society needs to raise \$2,500 as their share of the total cost of this restoration. The work will begin in January and last for about six weeks.

HELP! PAUL LOST HIS NOTES

At our last General Meeting in May, one of our members talked to Paul Idleman about helping with photographing our collections. This gentleman had been a photographer before retiring. Paul lost his notepad with the member's name and phone number after the meeting. Would this member please call Paul at 633-7803 or catch up with him at our next meeting. Thank you.

ACCESSIONING WORKSHOP

An accessioning training workshop will be given by **Sharron Uhler**, Curator of Photographs at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, on October 4th. The History Center will need many volunteers to help accession our collections. Accessioning needs to be very precise and all interested volunteers will need to be trained. Our thanks to Sharron for offering to help us prepare for this project. The workshop for us will be held at the Colorado Springs Pioneers

Museum on Friday, October 4th from 10:00 a.m. until noon. If you would like to help with accessioning our collections, call **Paul Idleman** at 633-7803 by October 1st to make a reservation.

NOW IS THE TIME ...

... for all volunteers to come to the aid of their Society. As the time for our History Center's opening to the public draws near, the need for our members to volunteer a little time is becoming greater. Our History Center Book & Gift Shop has been open most Saturdays during the Farmer's Market with visitors steadily stopping by to purchase our books, seek information about our history and even join our organization. We are planning to open the Book Shop for regular hours a few days every week as the holidays approach. OCCHS members who can volunteer one or two hours per week in our Book Shop need to contact our Book & Gift shop manager, **Jan Knox, 689-2355**, to help prepare the schedule.

Volunteers will also be needed in many departments as we approach our December 1st opening date. Volunteers interested in accessioning our collections, preparing exhibits or serving as docents to guide visitors to our exhibits will be needed. As our *West Word* Editor, Paul Idleman begins his third year of putting *West Word* together for us, he is unsure that his career is going to keep him in Colorado Springs. Paul needs volunteers with computer experience to help with that growing project. We've worked hard to reach the day that our History Center is open for the public. That exciting day is close and the History Center needs everyone's help. Please call any Board member if you are able to help.

LECTURE AT ROCK LEDGE

Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site will present a free lecture given by Katie Gardner, Curator of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, on September 19, 1996. "*Woven Across Times: Hispanic Textiles of Southern Colorado*" is a free lecture and slide presentation open to the public. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Rock Ledge Ranch Barn Auditorium. Call 578-6777 for more information.

years working for the school paper, *The Lever*. After college, she worked for the publicity department for Alexander Film Company. In the late 1940's she got her first job at the *Gazette Telegraph* as their Church Editor and head of their 'morgue' of news files. She left the *Gazette* in 1952 to operate the Bob and Dot Gym at the Acacia Hotel with her second husband, Bob Aldridge.

But Dorothy could never get very far from her



As a reporter, Dorothy Aldridge interviewed actor Robert Mitchum in the late 1940's.

typewriter. She formed a partnership with long time Manitou Springs resident, W.S. "Bill" Crosby, to write stories for **True West**, **Frontier Times**, **Old West** and **Real West** magazines. Bill Crosby came to Manitou Springs in 1885 and, as a teenager, worked as a bellhop at the Barker House Hotel. His career in the local hotel industry culminated with his position as manager of the Alamo Hotel. Crosby also had first hand experience with many of the events that make up the history of the Pikes Peak region. Crosby related his experiences to Dorothy who wrote the stories under the pen name of "*Hank Givens*".

According to an interview she gave the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum for their Oral History Project, Dorothy felt that Western tales were read mostly by men and "who's going to believe anything written by someone named Dorothy Aldridge?". She chose the name of her family's bulldog, "*Hank*", and one of her mother's

family names, "*Givens*". Thus, *Hank Givens* was born because the name "sounded like a real old cowpoke" to Dorothy. Dorothy's good friends continued to call her "*Hank*" from then on.

In 1969, she returned to the *Gazette Telegraph* as a news reporter and feature writer. Dorothy's former City Editor, Gary Shupp, is quoted in the *Gazette Telegraph* as saying, "She was really devoted to history. It was a long time before I knew she was *Hank Givens*. I knew people called her *Hank*, but I had no clue as to why. She never talked about it. She was very quiet."

In 1972, Dorothy bought the Montcalm Castle (now Miramont Castle) in Manitou Springs. "She loved owning the castle for the brief time that she did," said close friend, Marguerite "Rusty" Mitchell in an August 21, 1996 *Gazette Telegraph* story. In 1973, Dorothy married her third husband, W.J. "Bill" McGlasson, a **Gazette Telegraph** reporter and editor. Their love of the newspaper business brought them very close to buying the *Fairplay Flume* newspaper in Fairplay, Colorado. Bill McGlasson died in 1983.

In addition to covering a variety of stories for the newspaper, Dorothy wrote so many historical pieces that the *Gazette* began featuring her own history column in their Leisuretime section. Her "*Peek Into The Past*" columns became one of the *GT's* most popular features.

Soon after retiring from the *Gazette Telegraph* in 1989, Dorothy made regular Monday appearances on Chuck Baker's "*On The Carpet*" program on KVOR 1300 AM radio. For two years, she would present an audio version of her long-running newspaper column to the delight of the show's listeners and Chuck Baker. Baker decided Dorothy's unique stories should be preserved in a book. "I told Dorothy that she wrote about things that could never be located in any history book," Chuck Baker states in his introduction to Dorothy's **Peek Into The Past** book, published in 1992 by Gowdy Press. The book quickly sold out and is now out of print.

For two years, Dorothy worked with the Old Colorado City Historical Society's document and photographic archives helping Ralph Conner, Joyce Johns, Liliane Ross and Virginia Cox with

WORK BEGINS ON HISTORY CENTER PATIO

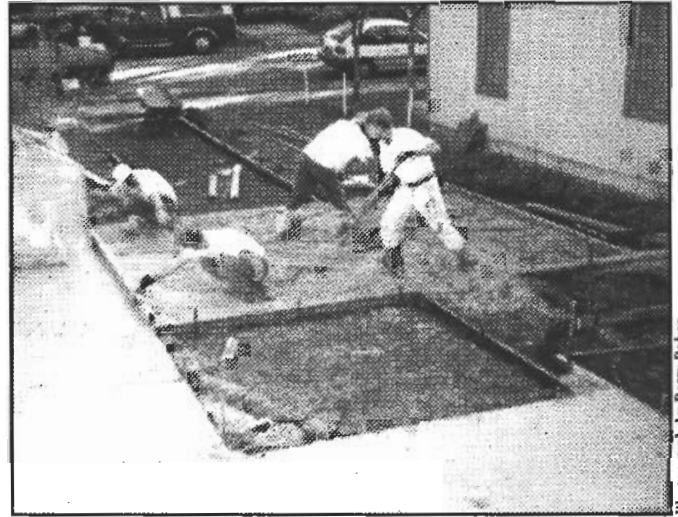
The work on the patio at the History Center is moving ahead nicely. The patio could not be done until the building was completed. There was too much chance of the patio being damaged if it were done earlier.

A current update is that the cement area of the patio has been completed by Flat and Fancy – a company that did a wonderful job of preparing the area to lay the cement, which, as you will see, looks like bricks already.

The time capsule and the inscribed bricks purchased by many of you for yourself or in memory of someone will be put in place shortly after the landscaping is done. If anyone still wants a brick, we encourage you to send a check for \$100 (indicating the money is to be used for a brick in the patio) to the History Center, at 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. The proper paperwork will be sent

to you so that you may indicate any other information you'd like the Society to have. Forms may also be obtained by calling the President, Dave Hughes, or any of the other officers listed in the front of the Newsletter.

We're very pleased with the patio to date and trust you will be, too. *by Lucille Cunningham*



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