

FEBRUARY 1996

VICTORIAN WEDDING GOWNS

Our February Program

Rita Wilhelm, owner of Seasons Past Ltd., will present our next program on Friday, February 9, 1996, at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 701 North 20th Street (just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center). Rita is a nationally known actress and designer/seamstress of period clothing.

Rita will give an entertaining and informative talk about clothing fashions during the 1800's, particularly wedding clothing, illustrating her talk with models. **NOTE:** You are encouraged to share any wedding photos you might have, your own or family members. A display table will be available. Also, if you still have your dress or you have a family member's dress from the past, please bring it to show.

Rita majored in Art Education at Umpqua Community College in Oregon, close to where she grew up. After seven years in Colorado community theatre,
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THE OCCHS HISTORY CENTER



Restoration work on our History Center has moved indoors and is progressing at a rapid pace. For our out-of-state members to see how beautifully the outside reconstruction has gone, we took this photograph last Fall just after the trees lost their leaves.

photo by Paul Idlemmon

HARRIET SEIBEL PRESENTS MANY FOND MEMORIES

The January program, a slide/narration presented by author/historian Harriet Seibel, brought back fond, as well as sad, memories to those in the audience who remembered many of the buildings shown on the nearly one hundred slides. Sadness was also experienced by those who never had the opportunity to see these Pikes Peak area treasures prior to their demise.

Harriet started collecting pictures, mainly of old schools, in the late 1960's when she started

research for her book, **A History of the Colorado Springs Schools District 11**, published in 1974.

She also collected pictures and did research for a book on Colorado Springs churches (unpublished at this time). Her interest in the area's disappearing buildings was further piqued while downtown in 1972 watching the big parade celebrating the Colorado Springs Centennial and being aware that four entire blocks of the down-

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Old Colorado City Historical Society
1 South 24th Street Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

WEST WORD

VOLUME 11 FEBRUARY 1996 NUMBER 5
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 OR MAILED TO:

PAUL IDLEMAN
1939 Giltshire Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-4227

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 Westside 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, and are renewed in April. Members receive the *West Word* and local members are phoned prior to the meeting if desired.

Annual memberships classifications are as follows:

Individual.....\$10
Family.....\$15
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	Lucille Cunningham.....630-7578
Vice President	Betty Jean Baker.....633-2350
Secretary	Shirley Kyllonen-Waller.....632-7569
Treasurer	Mary Jo Wallace.....392-3337
	Jim Cileffi.....520-0696
	Jean Christopher.....634-1803
	Ralph Conner.....634-0895
	David Hughes.....636-2040
	Paul Idleman.....633-7803
	Jan Knox.....689-2355
	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 **Kay Arnold** at **633-2592** by the Tuesday prior to the meeting. You may leave a message at any time. If you find you cannot attend, please call to cancel.

MEETING THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY 9, 1996 - 11:00 a.m.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
701 NORTH 20th STREET
(JUST WEST OF UINTAH GARDENS)

NEXT MEETING MARCH 8, 1995



ROLL CALL

GENERAL MEETING 1/12/1996
49 members and 13 visitors signed in

Jo Alden	Shirley Kyllonen-Waller
Kay Arnold	Olive Langston
Doris J. Baab	Helen Michelson
Betty Baker	Doris Morland
Cindy Batey	Don Paddock
Ed Bathke	Louis Parker
Nancy Bathke	Jack Patterson
Wilma Bradshaw	Beverly N. Patterson
Beulah Butler	Harriet Seibel
Jean Christopher	Martha Simons
Barbara Cole	Gene Tarbert
Ed Cole	Jean Tillotson
Donald Colvin	B. E. Tillotson
Virginia Cox	Marty Walker
John W. Croff	Mary Jo Wallace
Lucille Cunningham	Rhoda Wilcox
Ed Curry	Bessie Wreath
Martha Curry	
Bev Disch	
Betty Fisher	
Liz Geiss	
Margaret Gould	
Max Gould	
Eileen Graham	
Alfred Hagedorn	
Marjorie Harris	
Anna-Leah Hathaway	
Orrin R. Haynes	
Catherine Henderson	
Ann Hiskey	
Madeline Keas	
Jan Knox	

Visitors

Dorothy Campbell
Ann Daniel
Leona Filkens
Bob Heinrich
Chris Heinrich
Karen Heun
Dagny High
Peggy Johnson
Thelma Stoodly
Wilber Tulker
Shirley Wade
Barbara Waldo
Cal Watson

FUTURE PROGRAMS

March 8, 1996 — **Dr Jeanne T. Heidler**, Professor, USAFA Dept of History, "*The Role of Colorado in the Battle of Glorieta Pass*".

April 12, 1996 — **Will DeBoer**, Supt., Evergreen and Fairview Cemeteries, "*Here Lies Colorado Springs — Some of the People Who Were Left Out of the Book*".

May 10, 1996 — **David R. Hughes**, Old Colorado City Communications Company (O.C.C.H.S. charter and Board member), "*Online—the O.C.C.H.S. History Center Computer Room*".

All meetings/programs/luncheons begin at 11:00 A.M. O.C.C.H.S. will not meet in the months of June, July and August.

MAIL BOX



From The President's Desk

Building Report

The interior work at the History Center is being completed at a rapid pace. The sheetrock project was finished this past week and the taping is currently being done. As the finishing of the Center is approaching, all the final details must be considered and addressed. Several members on the Board are giving this matter their attention.

In the next issue will have our wish list of things needed shortly at the Center. Perhaps people have some of the items and be willing to donate them.

Meeting of the Society

The Old Colorado City Historical Society meets on the second Friday of every month at Trinity United Methodist Church - 701 North 20th Street (west of Uintah Gardens) - at 11:00 A.M. Call **Kay Arnold** (633-2592) for reservations if you wish to eat lunch there. Thanks to the ladies of the church the meals have been delicious! It has been guaranteed that the meeting room will be warm for the next meeting (the furnace in the back room did not get turned on last month; we do apologize!).

Coming Soon

We are so pleased to announce that our own **Dorothy Aldridge** has a book, *Historic Colorado City*, coming out shortly. How proud we are of you, Dorothy! **Ralph Conner** wrote the introduction in the book. **Leland Feitz**, another member, is publishing the book. He owns the Little London Press. We hope to host an autograph party this Spring for Dorothy. Watch for details.

Assistant Treasurer

Ralph Conner is serving as Temporary Assistant Treasurer. **Mary Jo Wallace** is our Treasurer, but her husband, **Jud**, has just undergone bypass heart surgery. May you have a speedy recovery, Jud.

Joyce Johns Recovering

It was recently learned that our former president, **Joyce Johns**, suffered a stroke. She is now at home and is recovering nicely. She recently challenged Paul Idleman to arm wrestle which is a good sign that she'll be better soon. Joyce, may you also have a speedy recovery.

Timberline Questers Join Society

Dear OCCHS,

When I joined the Society for myself and my mother last year, I registered with our maiden names included. I noticed in your directory and on your mailing list (that) our maiden names were dropped.

I was very disappointed about this, particularly being a "historical" Society. We are proud of our heritage and our history of growing up in the West Side.

It seems to me that those of us with heritage from there, our maiden names would be part of the history.

Also, living out of state, the news letters would be more interesting and names more recognizable if maiden names were included as they are in the newsletter from (the) Colorado Springs High School Alumni Association.

Pat Stark Jacobs
Tigaro, OR

INDIAN LEGEND

Long ago, there lived an Indian chief named Thorn-in-Side. He had a beautiful daughter, the fair maiden TaiWan. The chief was anxious that his daughter marry a fine brave who would give him many grandsons. Thorn-in-Side's choice was a handsome lad named Sitting Duck, but the fair maiden TaiWan loved another, the equally brave and handsome Falling Rock.

To settle the matter, it was agreed that the two braves would go on a hunt. Whichever one brought back the biggest deer in the forest would win the hand of the old chief's daughter. Time passed, and Sitting Duck brought in a huge buck, enough to feed the whole village, the biggest deer anyone had ever seen. All agreed that Falling Rock could never find such a fine, big deer, but TaiWan demurred. She insisted they wait for her true love, Falling Rock. Sitting Duck didn't like this, but Thorn-in-Side said pointedly, "A promise is a promise."

Many moons passed, but Falling Rock did not return. Years passed; still no Falling Rock. The old chief, Thorn-in-Side, died. Then, Sitting Duck died—of great sadness some said. Still the fair maiden, TaiWan, waited.

By this time all of the Indian tribes from far and wide had heard of her devotion and unfulfilled love for the long-gone brave. So, when she too died, her legend persisted and was honored by all. That is why, even today, all through the mountains of the West, along the old Indian trails where highways have been built, you still see signs: *Watch Out For Falling Rock.*

retold by Mary Jo Wallace

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A LIFE HISTORY as told by

Lowell J. Mills, principal of West Junior High School for 27 years, is well known throughout Colorado Springs and the West Side. He came to the area from Iowa in 1896, following the deaths of his parents. He was three years old and his sister, Nell, was six. They were raised by their aunt, Alice Hopkins, in Fountain.

Mr. Mills was very interested in the history of the Pikes Peak Region, and in the outdoors, mountain climbing, and photographing wildlife in its natural habitat. Following is his autobiography, which he wrote shortly before his death on October 27, 1986, at the age of 93.

— June Mindock

I was born July 11, 1893 in Libertyville, Iowa, the son of Eliza Hopkins and James Mills. When I was three years old, my mother died of tuberculosis. There being no sanatoriums in the area at that time, my father undertook the care of mother. He contracted the disease and died eight months after her death. At my mother's request, her older sister, my aunt, Alice Hopkins, agreed to assume the care of my six-year-old sister, Nellie, and me, thereby keeping us out of an orphan home. It was very generous on her part, especially since she had never married, and had limited means of support.

In 1896, my aunt and her father, William Hopkins, brought us to Fountain, where he bought a nine-acre farm on the edge of town. Four years later, while ploughing out an irrigation ditch, he ran a rusty nail in his foot, and blood poisoning caused his death. We had a pretty yard, with lawn and trees, and the funeral was held there.

I started school in Fountain, and graduated from high school there in 1912, in a class of two (Edith White and myself). As I remember it, the schoolhouse was very nice - a brick building housing both grade and high school. We had an auditorium, and a physics lab. We played baseball in a vacant lot across the street. The superintendent taught the high school math class.

Our family attended the Free Methodist Church, still standing. There were two lady ministers, Miss Handyside and Miss Harris. Their sermons always inspired fervent 'amens' from one of the worshippers. My aunt taught the boys' Sunday School class. She gave each one of us a small, complete Bible inscribed with her name and the date, 1903. I still have mine.

As a young boy, I worked on the farms in the



Lowell J. Mills

vicinity, had a paper route, trapped fur-bearing animals, and picked up the laundry Auntie did for the teachers. I got \$20 a month at the Santa Fe Railway Station for taking mail sacks to and from the Post Office. One of the operators would sometimes entrust me with the duties of his job while he went to the ball game.

In the summer, I took the town herd to and from pasture. One time, when crossing the railway tracks, a fast passenger train hit and killed three milk cows. One of the hardest things I ever had to do was tell their owners. The railroad reimbursed them only \$50.00 for each cow.

A big event for my sister and me was to go to Colorado Springs, either by train for 75 cents round trip, or by spring wagon, drawn by "Old Bell". We would put her in Peck's corral which was located between Nevada and Tejon Streets, on Huerfano (now Colorado Avenue). We ate at Bill Nye's Chinese restaurant. At Christmas time, our first destination was the basement of

LOWELL J. MILLS

Kaufman's Department Store, a fairyland of toys for Nell and me.

When the great benefactor of Colorado Springs, Winfield Scott Stratton, died, his remains were laid out in state in the Mining Exchange Building. My Aunt took us to see him.

The picnic area at the entrance to the Cheyenne Canyons was then known as Stratton Park. Sometimes, in the summer, we took the street car out there. It made a loop around the building where one could purchase refreshments and souvenirs. The fare was 20 cents. Concerts by the Midland Band were given there.

One of our early spring activities was to go pick anemones, which always bloomed on the north slopes of the hills west of Fountain. Another favorite recreation for the youth of Fountain was to go on a picnic to Rock Creek Canyon, a scenic area off the highway to Canon City.

When I was in my teens, we had a young neighbor, "Mort" Loomis, somewhat older than myself. He owned a horse and buggy in which we used to drive to a nearby lake and go duck hunting.

There were two spectacular events which shocked Fountain residents, the first before my time. Two cars, loaded with dynamite, got away from a train in Colorado Springs and traveled all the way to Fountain, where they collided with a northbound passenger train and exploded, shaking the entire town. Surprisingly, I think there were no fatalities.

In 1907 or 1908, there was a cloudburst which sent a flood down an ordinarily dry arroya, near Eden, Colorado. It washed out the underpinning of the Missouri Pacific Railroad bridge. The evening train went on the bridge, was submerged in the flood, and the body of the engineer was never found.

I had three half brothers. Frank and Al were miners in Cripple Creek. They occasionally visited us in Fountain and once took Nell and me to Colorado Springs and bought us complete new outfits. They never married. My third half brother, Ross, was a minister. He had one son, Milo, who lives with his wife, Dorothy, in Burlingame, California. They have one daughter, Mary Beth (Mrs. William Conway). My sister, Nell, married

Walter King. Their son, Hal, and his wife, Leah, live in Fountain.

On graduation from high school, I attended Colorado College for one year, then spent a year as a shipping clerk for a wholesale candy company in Jamestown, New York. The following fall I enrolled at Buffalo State Normal School in the Vocational Department, graduating in 1916. During those two years, I lived with cousins Robert and Alice Warren. Though they had seven children, they took me in, which I think was very generous of them.

The fall after graduation, I accepted a position as manual training teacher in the high school in Cortland, New York.

In 1918, I enlisted in the Air Force in World War I, training as an airplane mechanic in St. Paul, Minnesota. Having completed the training, I was shipped to Long Island, preparatory to going overseas, but the Armistice was signed and I was discharged in January, 1919.

I returned to Colorado Springs and Roscoe Hill, superintendent of schools, hired me as manual training teacher at Bancroft School. The shop had a few work benches and some simple tools. Bancroft was located on Colorado Avenue where Bancroft Park now is. It had been the high school in District #1 of old Colorado City, but was empty because District #1 had voted to join District #11 in Colorado Springs. It now became the first junior high school in that city.

After I taught there five years, we moved to the new West Junior High School, the present building at 19th and Pikes Peak. After four years as manual training teacher there, I was sent by Superintendent Corning to Ivywild Elementary School as principal. Three years later, in 1931, I became principal of West Junior High School, where I remained until my retirement in 1958.

I was in charge of a junior high assembly one morning when Principal E. E. Hedblom brought Miss Elizabeth Kline in and introduced her to me. She was Director of Music in the Colorado Springs Schools, and had come to lead the music in our assembly. I was attracted to her and I guess

con□t on next page

LOWELL J. MILLS

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she was to me. Anyway, that was the beginning of our friendship which culminated in our marriage on June 13, 1921.

We wanted a honeymoon in the mountains, so we went to the Forest Ranger for suggestions. He referred us to a rancher by the name of Lawrie, whose ranch was seven miles south of Divide, Colorado. He was very nice to talk to, and said he knew a spot that he thought would suit us. He would haul our equipment up there with a team and wagon.

So we came home (we were living at 1904 West Colorado Avenue), borrowed a 10' x 14' tent from my sister, and hired a truck on which we loaded enough lumber for a floor, a double sanitary couch bed, folding chairs, bedding, and lots of food.

After Mr. Lawrie had deposited our equipment at our campsite, establishing our camp was up to me. During the next two days, I built a permanent floor in the tent and hung a screen door. We lived there for ten weeks—the entire summer. We were about a mile below Sentinel Peak. A clear mountain stream ran by our camp. We named the site "Honeymoon Gulch".

Mr. Lawrie supplied us with fresh vegetables, eggs and milk, and the news butch on the Midland train to Cripple Creek threw off the daily paper and our mail at the gulch.

Besides mountain climbing, my hobby became

the photographing of wildlife in its natural habitat. I made movies in color of antelope, beaver, elk, and big horn rams of Colorado fighting for supremacy over the female herd. I also filmed the snowy egret in the Bear River marshes of northern Utah, strutting grouse in Colorado, pelicans and other unusual birds along the Gulf Coast and in Alaska.

I made three trips to Alaska arranged by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I spent nearly a month on the Priboloff Islands, filming the world's largest seal rookery, and a short time on Kodiak Island, photographing the Kodiak bear and Alaska's birds.

When we entered World War II, I tried to enlist, but I was too old, so I asked the Red Cross for duty in the Foreign Service. I was sent to Guam as Field Director, where I remained for fifteen months (until the end of the war).

In 1938, I headed the local Community Chest Drive, and in 1943 was commander of Post Number Five of the American Legion. I also served as chairman of the Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Red Cross. My wife and I coached and produced plays in the "Little Theater" of the Colorado Springs Auditorium. This was the nucleus of the present Civic Theatre. My dear wife died March 21, 1976.

So ends the chronicle witnessed by one who has lived in this area many years and seen many changes.
- Lowell J. Mills

ATTENTION OCCHS MEMBERS

New Membership Directories are now printed and will be available at our February 9th meeting. There will be a small charge to offset the costs of production.

TIME TO RENEW???
PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Application

New Membership Renewal Gift from _____

Individual (\$10) Family (\$15) Lifetime (\$150)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone(s) _____ ZIP _____

I WOULD I WOULD NOT } like a call if I don't make a lunch reservation

Make checks payable to: **Old Colorado City Historical Society**
Mail to: 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

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Several members of the Timberline Questers have joined our Historical Society. We certainly welcome each and every one of you. These were the wonderful girls who served as volunteers at the Holden House for the Bed and Breakfast Tour on December 3, 1995. Your help was most appreciated there and we do welcome you to our Society. You are a great addition! Their organization is also interested in preservation and restoration. What a team we should be able to form!

Bed & Breakfast Hosts Join Society

We are so pleased that all the hosts of the Bed & Breakfast House Tours have joined our Society. **Karla Hefferan** was already a member. We want to welcome the other hosts: **Sallie Clark,**

Shannon and Karen Jones, Valerie Maslowski, and Pat Fejedelm. The hosts are already planning next year's Fund Raiser. They will sponsor another tour on December 1, 1996. Many people are already asking about this year's tour.

Spelling Bee

The Mountainview Nursing Home will sponsor a Spelling Bee on May 16, 1996. Your President, **Lucille Cunningham,** will serve as a Master of Ceremony and **Ralph Conner** will serve as one of the judges. It is my understanding that these Nursing Home Spelling Bees are a lot of fun! More information later.

Julie Pilant Joins West Word

OCCHS member **Julie Pilant** has joined the *West Word* staff to help produce this newsletter. Thank you so much, Julie. And thanks to **Ed Bathke** who scans the photographs for use in each issue.

Items Received

We have received several items lately for which we are very thankful. We received eight boxes of small books to sell in the History Center. The book *The Adventure of Juanita Rabbit in Old Colorado City* was written by **Millie Cox,** a member who passed away recently. Also, **Steve and June Mindock** have given us a lectern for our History Center. Thank you very much.

by Lucille Cunningham



(top photo from left to right) **Sharron Tefft, Jean Keith, Lee Byers and Elaine Mellott** from the Timberline Questers have joined the Old Colorado City Historical Society. We welcome you and thank you for all your help with the Bed and Breakfast Tour.

Welcome to all the Bed & Breakfast owners who joined our Society. Your interest and active participation in OCCHS is most gratifying. We think you'll have fun as members, too. Some of the innkeepers joined our President, **Lucille Cunningham,** in 19th Century attire for this photograph (bottom right) that will promote next year's Bed and Breakfast fund raiser. Getting into the historical spirit are: (from left to right) **Rex Hefferan, Pat Fejedelm, Lucille Cunningham, Karen Jones, Carla Hefferan, Sallie Clark, Valerie Maslowski, and Welling Clark.**



photo by Paul Irlman

PPLD Photo Project

The Local History Section of the Pikes Peak Library District would like to invite you to participate in the sixth annual photodocumentary project presented by the library and the Pikes Peak Camera Club. The theme for this year's contest is "**Places of Worship in the Pikes Peak Region.**"

Since places of worship are an integral part of the community, the Local History Section would like to document this meaningful area of the Pikes Peak region for future researchers. Photographs of places of worship (interior and exterior), activities, members and leaders of the congregation are important aspects of the religious and cultural life of the community. All prints accepted will become part of the library's photo archives.

The contest is open to everyone. All photographs entered will be judged by recognized regional photographers at meetings of the Pikes Peak Camera Club. Awards will be given to the top three photographs.

Photographs are judged three times a year. Criteria used for judging include: subject, composition, presentation, technical and artistic excellence, suitability for reproduction and appropriateness for the library's Photo Archives.

An annual exhibit of award-winning prints and contest entries is presented in the Art Gallery of the East Library and Information Center each February.

A final competition of prints that were awarded first, second, third or honorable mention prizes at the workshops on March 19, May 21, and October 15 determines the winners of the cash prizes and special awards.

Cash awards and awards for Special Achievement are given at the annual banquet on the first Tuesday evening in December. Cash awards are the \$250 Laura Gilpin Award, \$100 Harry L. Standley Award and \$50 Horace Poley Award.

If you need further information, please call 531-6333 Ext. 2251 for Ree Mobley or Debbi Mikash at Ext. 2253.

Overheard 'round the campfire....

"Some folks have their good points, but they keep jabbin' you with 'em like they was spurs."

- Wes T. Sider

February Program

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both in acting and costuming, she began designing and producing replicas of historical apparel as a full time business in 1980.

She has produced fashion shows, given seminars, taught period dances and provided clothing for over fifteen years for historic balls, Centennial celebrations, and special occasions, such as weddings. Many historical sites such as the Georgetown Historical Society (CO), Fort Bridger (WY), Fort Union (ND), the Campbell House Museum (St Louis, MO), the Museum of Western Art and the Molly Brown House in Denver. The "America the Beautiful" celebration, Miramont Castle and many other organizations in Pikes Peak region and across the state have availed themselves of her expertise.

Rita has also costumed many theatrical productions including the Heritage Square Opera House and five major television commercials. She also acted in two of them. Rita and her family portray the General Ulysses S. Grant family and have made many appearances as such including two as guests of Anheuser Busch at Grants Farm in St. Louis, Missouri.

Since going into business, Rita has won many awards for her period clothing at various Victorian Balls, and historical events, including reenactments such as the 1987 **Santa Fe Trail Days** at Bent's Fort.

She offers sewing classes pertaining to period clothing and will soon have her own **Seasons Past Patterns** available for purchase. Although most of the clothing in the rental area of her business is Victorian-Edwardian, she constructs apparel from all time periods for women, men and children.

by Jan Knox

Booksales will Benefit OCCHS

Amstar Books and **La Dolce Vita** have made a very generous offer to help raise funds for the Old Colorado City Historical Society. When purchasing books at either shop, be sure to mention that you are an OCCHS member and they will donate 10% of the sale to our Society. If you haven't yet visited these book shops, you're in for a pleasant surprise. Both shops are located at the corner of Tejon and Boulder. Thank you, Jim Ciletti and Mary Young, for this wonderful way to help the OCCHS.

Harriett Seibel

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town area were being torn down. On the way home that day, she and a group of school children with her watched the wrecking ball attempt to demolish the old Columbia School. It took many swings before those solidly built walls bit the dust.

A sampling of the homes and buildings included in Harriet's talk: 1.) The Cheyenne Mountain Lodge was a popular dining spot for many years. The view of Colorado Springs was spectacular. Guests had to drive up that steep and winding road with its many hairpin curves so the road was eventually barred past the Shrine of the Sun and the lodge was dismantled. 2.) William Templeton, a minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and a well known inventor (one was the Templeton cheese cutter used by so many old time grocery stores) had a beautiful home on the corner of Boulder and Union. Their home was destroyed to make way for a hamburger stand, later a shoppette. 3.) Justus and Julia Seldomridge had a beautiful residence at 416 N. Weber. They owned a large grain company on West Colorado avenue. In the mid-1930's the home was purchased by School District 11. It was used as class rooms while that architectural treasure, Colorado Springs High School, was being razed (many tears were shed in 1939 when this happened) and replaced with the present Palmer High. The historic Seldomridge home was razed in the mid-1950's and replaced with tennis courts. 4.) The second Colorado City Hall/Jail/Firehouse was built in 1892 on 26th street south of Colorado avenue, because the first one, built in 1888 at cost of \$5,000, at 28th and

Colorado avenue (still standing though renovated and restored) was too far from "downtown" Colorado City and the activities of the saloons, etc. The second City Hall was burned to the ground in a disastrous fire on June 18, 1990, at an estimated loss of \$750,000.



Harriett Seibel

Photo by Paul Idleman

Harriet closed her nostalgic presentation by stating, "From its founding in 1871, many beautiful homes and buildings were erected in Colorado Springs. Even fifty years ago, before the days of urban renewal, the city and its surrounding communities had a different look. Unfortunately, many of these historic buildings have been destroyed. Others are still standing, though most of them have been added on to, stuccoed over or moved to other locations and remodeled so that they only have a bare resemblance to their original structure. I'm sure that we would all agree that General Palmer's dream that his city would be a success has been fulfilled in a way that he never would have deemed possible." *by Jan Knox*

More Bed & Breakfast Tour Thank Yous

We wish to thank the **West Colorado Avenue Safeway Store** for their gift certificate which was used for wassail ingredients. In addition, we wish to especially thank the following volunteers, without their help, the B&B Tour would not have been the success that it was: At the Bed & Breakfast Inns - from The Questers - **Elaine Mellott, Lee Beyer, Jean Keith, Sharon Tefft and Marie Herbo**; O.C.C.H.S. members: **Marty Walker, Pat Heltemes, and Bev Disch**; thanks also to Bev's

friend, **Cyndy Estes**, who once again volunteered her services; thanks, too, to **Deborah Taylor Ross** and **Susan Matheson** of Modiste at 9 S. Tejon. The History Center volunteers who served wassail and cookies, sold books, talked about O.C.C.H.S. and the History Center, and signed up new members were: **Shirley and Clint Waller, Kay Arnold, Bev and Jack Patterson, Lucille Cunningham and Jan Knox**. Thanks also to **Paul Idleman** for producing the B&B Tour poster.



WESTSIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO February, 1896

* The Stone hotel on West street has been leased by Mr. Banse, who will run it in good style. Board and lodging is \$5 a week. He can accommodate 50 guests.

* Rev. Reed, of Denver, has been called to the pulpit of the First Baptist church. Mr. Reed had preached to the congregation of this church previous to being assigned to the place and has given general satisfaction. Hereafter there will be regular services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

* J. H. Hunt who went from this city to Victor about the time that town was started has met with the financial success a pioneer deserves. He is now the owner of \$15,000 to \$20,000 worth of real estate, located on the main business street of the city, which will bring rent sufficient to pay interest on \$30,000. He has an enormous stock of house furnishing goods and interests in valuable mining properties.

* The Chicago Dental Parlors, Templeton Block, Rooms 1, 2, 3, and 4 advertise the following: A full set of teeth for six dollars; Gold Crowns five dollars; Porcelain Crowns five dollars; Teeth extracted without pain fifty cents; Gold Fillings one dollar and upward; All other work in proportion. We give a written guarantee with all of our work.

* The county commissioners have been figuring up the receipts of the various offices. The county clerk's office shows the highest receipts since the opening of Cripple Creek. In four years, the office has earned \$71,037.87. The receipts for the coming year bode fair to be the largest yet.

* The snow storm Wednesday evening made it rather uncomfortable for shoppers who had been doing the Colorado Springs stores. The damp snow caused the paper enclosing the numerous packages to break and the

contents were plainly visible to the occupants of the overcrowded cars. On the car which leaves Tejon street for Colorado City and Manitou at 5 o'clock, a crowd was packed in like sardines in a box. The packages they carried were in a dilapidated condition. One lady held a package of millinery goods in her lap, another a bundle of dry goods, a printer had a number of stock ledgers, a couple of laboring men carried dinner baskets and packages of beef steak, an elderly lady with gray hair and gold spectacles sat opposite a man in the center of the car with a whisky flask peeping from a torn wrapper in his lower overcoat pocket. A little further down, opposite a very stylish young lady stood a man with a broken bundle which showed the contents to be bottled beer. As the car neared Colorado City and the men with the beer and whiskey had dropped off, a worldly man was heard to remark: "Colorado Springs is indeed a cosmopolitan town."

* Mrs. Wiegman opened a kindergarten in the Sally Bryant cottage on Lincoln avenue Monday. Twelve little boys and girls are in attendance.

* Washington's birthday was appropriately observed Friday afternoon in the first and fourth grade of the Bancroft school. The Teachers, Miss Miller and Miss Tittle both presented pleasing programs listened to by quite a large number of the patrons of the school. The singing and recitations in the first grade were excellent for such young pupils, while the military flag drill of the fourth grade showed preparation.

* A number of the young people took the 2:35 train for Leadville, Friday morning, after the ball at the Knights of Phythias' hall. They will visit the Ice Palace and return Sunday.

* The officers of Colorado City have not only closed up the gambling rooms, but have ordered all the disreputable women out of the city, closing

up every place of resort.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO February 1921

* T. F. Hull, 73, died (2/12) at his home, 727 West Cucharras. He had been a resident for 35 years and was one of the builders of the Short Line railroad.

* J. Eldridge Waldron, Jr. of 1917 West Colorado avenue is improving. He is a student at the Junior High school. He fractured his collarbone yesterday when his vaulting pole broke while jumping. He was a quarterback on the High school football team last fall and has been a member of the Boys' club midget basketball team.

* The Manitou high school pupils are learning to write and spell. This semester the students are studying penmanship and proving their ability to master the orthographical elusiveness of "separate", the most frequently misspelled word in the English language, as shown by tests. Penmanship and spelling will now be studied all the way through the high school course. This move on the part of the Manitou high school will no doubt be watched with interest by other high school principals and teachers, as the complaint of lack of knowledge of spelling on the part of students as well as of poor penmanship, is general.

* Veteran tourist driver, John O'Byrne, has had bad luck in Mexico City. He lost his suitcase when a pick-pocket got his claim check. The manuscript of his history of the west, which he has been writing, was thus lost also. The would-be author says this will set him back a year. He was then sick in bed for a week and after that was almost run over by a speeding car as there is no speed law, so that the cars whisk through the streets at 45 and 50 miles an hour. Mr. O'Byrne has now left Mexico City for California.

* L. P. Buck, 72, a resident of Colorado Springs for 45 years, and a



WESTSIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS



long time police office in North Cheyenne canyon, died at Seattle, Washington (2/4). He and Mrs. Buck went there about a year ago to live with their daughter, Mrs. Edna Nichols. Mrs. Buck died less than a month ago.

* The Colorado Springs W. C. T. U. will meet at the home of Mrs. C. H. Anderson, 3311 West Pikes Peak avenue.

FIFTY YEARS AGO February 1946

* Mrs. L. M. Bantz, 3016 West Pikes Peak, observed her ninetieth birthday on January 31. Her home became a "bower" of flowers from all the friends who stopped by. She is the last of a family of 11 children, has lived in Colorado since 1900 and on the West Side since 1906.

* Hal E. Green, 33, of 2121 West Colorado avenue, suffered serious injuries when his motor scooter collided with a parked car in the 2700 block on West Colorado avenue. The car, owned by H. G. Wichman of 2724 West Colorado was pushed five feet by the impact.

* The Dennen Restaurant, owned and operated by Charles R. Dennen, his sister, Mrs. Esther D. Baldwin and their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Dennen, since May 1934, has been sold to Mr. and Mrs. Willard J. Bennett and Mr and Mrs Cecil E. Watson, of Sikeston, Missouri. It will now be known as the B & W Cafe. Mrs. Bennett is a sister of Clay O. Aslin, proprietor of the Pikes Peak Photo Co. The Dennen Restaurant started at 2413 W. Colorado and has been at 2513 W. Colorado since 1937. The Dennen family will make their home at their newly purchased house at 2931 W. Colorado avenue.

* The West Side Commercial Club committee will push the move to annex to the city the property south of Chlorination avenue and Adams

Crossing. When the property on the north side of Colorado avenue between Thirty-first street and Adams Crossing—Grandview and Arensdale additions—was annexed to Colorado City about 35 years ago, it was done in court, as a majority of the residents were opposed to the move. The reason why the property south of Colorado avenue was not annexed at the same time was because it was estimated that the upkeep of the road—West Colorado avenue—then Manitou road—would be more than the taxes received. As the road is now a state highway that is not a consideration in the present move.

* Dr. H. L. Shantz, who, with Prof. Lowell J. Mills, principal of West Junior high school and others who helped make the wild life pictures now being shown by C. C. Spencer of the U. S. forest service, is a brother of Fred H. Shantz, the artist. Dr. Shantz grew up in Colorado City, the family home being at 2004 Armstrong avenue. He is retired from the government forest service.

* Miss Patty Sonnekson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs Robert F. Sonnekson, 908 W. Colorado avenue, passed the gold medal test in figure skating at the Boston, Mass. ice arena. She will skate in the Philadelphia Pa ice carnival this week-end and then go to Chicago for the national championships.

* Waldo Dyck, who was a staff sergeant in the army, is back home with his wife and small son, Johnny at 1811 West Colorado ave. He was in the service for about two years but is already back on the job at West End Furniture Co. He and W. R. Weeden are the co-owners.

* Michael M. Dea, A. W. Sparkman, A. N. Wyman, Ray Strohm, Charles Wagner and Charles R. McElwain were pall bearers for the late August L. Perry whose funeral was Friday (2/13). Gus came to Colorado City from Wisconsin

42 years ago and was a meat-cutter. He operated the Palace Grocery-Meat Market at 2502 West Colorado avenue for several years. Their home was at 2302 West Pikes Peak but Mr. and Mrs. Perry had lived at the Myron Stratton Home since 1940.

* William A. Osborne is having the second story of his building at 2431 West Colorado avenue remodeled and made into suites for professional men.

* The regular meeting of West Junior P.T.A. will be held Thursday. Reviews of recent books acquired by the library will be given by pupils: Louise Hayhurst, Dean Brenton, Joan Sispela, James Phillips, Lulana Weller and George Conkey.

* The three Gemmill brothers, Walter, James and David, sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gemmill, 602 S. Twenty-fifth street, are home from the Pacific war area. The brothers were all employees of the Newton Lumber and Manufacturing company. Their former jobs are open to them.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO February 1971

* Mr. and Mrs. Alfred K. Trumbo, 2225 W. Kiowa St., were married February 10, 1921. In Chilicothe, Mo. Their sons and daughters will honor them with an Open House Sunday.

* Bethany Baptist, 1930 W. Colorado Ave., will have a church basket supper on Feb. 21 and hear Mrs. Earl Henderson of La Junta speak on and show slides of her visit to mission stations in the Congo as a representative of the Colorado Baptist Women.

* The newly incorporated Manitou Springs Historical Society has begun a drive for \$200,000 to purchase historic Briarhurst for use as a museum. It stands in danger of becoming a campground or something much less esthetic according to Society President, Lyle Henningsen.

HISTORIC COLORADO CITY BY DOROTHY ALDRIDGE

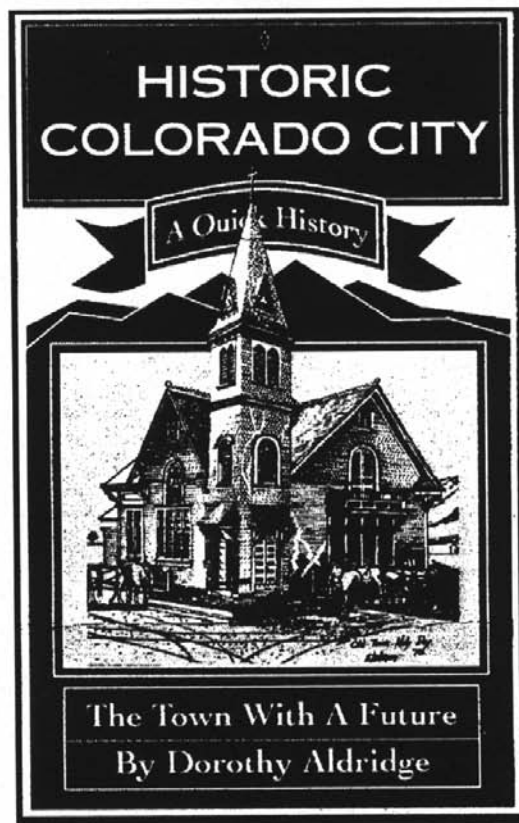
OCCHS member **Dorothy Aldridge** has been working long and hard researching the history of Colorado City for her new book, **Historic Colorado City**. The wait will soon be over. **Leland Feitz** has informed us that production has begun on Dorothy's book and he expects a publication date of March 1st.

The book, 80 pages in length, presents a concise history of Colorado City, from its 1859 beginnings through the recent revival. More than 25 photographs, many not published before, add interest to the beautifully written text.

Ralph Conner, who wrote the book's introduction, said, "No doubt the phrase it was about time will echo frequently, as a history of Colorado City has long been needed. We are fortunate Dorothy Aldridge has applied her talents to the telling."

Dorothy Aldridge is well qualified to write about Colorado City, as she is a native of Colorado Springs and has spent her entire life here. For more than 25 years she delighted *Gazette Telegraph* readers with her historical writings. Later, she was a frequent guest on Chuck Baker's popular *On the Carpet* radio show on KVOR. Her first book, **A Peek at the Past**, was published in 1992.

Historic Colorado City is being published by Leland Feitz's Little London Press, now in its 27th year of producing regional interest books.



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