



The Arvada Historian

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MORE THAN GOLD

By Marcetta Lutz

After much deliberation the above title was selected unanimously as the most appropriate. Although the discovery of gold was the spark that led people to Arvada it was More Than Gold that caused them to remain.

It is the courage, hope and remembrance of our staunch forebears who deserve a good deal of credit in paving the way for the present Arvada success story.

Johnson Publishing Company in Boulder will publish the 160 page, hard cover tome, which will hopefully be available in December 1975. The book will be sold for \$10 per copy. Profits will go toward a future publication and special collections for the museum.

Ann Jones has kindly consented to do the art work for the dust jacket. She was an art teacher in the Arvada schools and has been an Art Professor at the University of Colorado for many years.

The Editorial Board is very excited about the material which they have received from the publication committee. At the present time the Board is involved in organizing and editing the material.

The Arvada Historical Society is most grateful to the Arvada State Bank for their contribution of \$150 toward this second history of Arvada.

----ahs----

SOCCER GAME NETS \$670.00

By Lois Lindstrom

April 16, 1975 was a great evening for the Arvada Historical Society. It was a most perfect evening in April and a large crowd enjoyed the varied entertainment.

Music provided by Arvada High School Band and El Jebel Pipe Band was excellent. Presentation of the colors by Cub Scouts, Pack 167, Den 1, was stirring. The Arvada Historical Society is indebted to station KHOW disk jockeys, Denver Dynamos, Arvada Soccer Coaches and members of the Denver Broncos who participated in the game.

In a pre-game the Blue Panthers, a girls team, was scarcely beaten by the Liz-

(Cont. on Page 4.)

GOLD SITE DESIGNATED

The Ralston Creek gold discovery site at 56th and Fenton St. was officially designated by the Arvada City Council on Monday, April 27.

The Colorado Historical Society has nominated the site for designation. It is now clear for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as "a significant Colorado landmark."

The site will be dedicated on June 22, 1975 at 3 p.m. Plans are being made to memorialize 125 years of Arvada's history. Watch for further announcements in local papers and mark date on calendar.

----ahs----

BETSY ROSS PRESENTS "SO PROUDLY WE HAIL" AT TUESDAY, MAY 27 MEETING

The regular quarterly general membership meeting of the Arvada Historical Society, to which all members and the general public are most especially invited, will be held at the Arvada Presbyterian Church, 57th and Independence, on Tuesday, May 27, at 7:30 p.m.

The main business will be the announcement of several recent major contributions to the Society, both in money and in kind, and public recognition of the donors. The Society has been most fortunate in developing such outstanding support from the community. We hope many will turn out to share in the appreciation of this support.

The program will feature Barbara Daubenspeck portraying "Betsy Ross presents 'So Proudly We Hail.'" This is an original, educational and entertaining program concerning the history, significance and glory of our American Flag.

Now as we enter upon our nation's Bicentennial year, this drama needs to be unfolded. "So Proudly We Hail" is designed to inspire pride and reverence for the Flag of our country.

Those who have seen Mrs. Daubenspeck's presentation of this historical drama have accorded it highest accolades. Be sure and bring your youngsters, too.

Delicious refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.--B.B.

----ahs----

ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 24

Reserve Sunday, Aug. 24 for the Annual meeting of the Arvada Historical Society to be held in conjunction with the Old Timers Picnic.

The Committee would like to have an Arvada high school reunion for all those who graduated prior to 1956. Anyone having class lists please call Betty Stockdale, 424-8384 so notices can be sent out.

Watch for additional plans in the local papers.

-----ahs-----

IN MEMORIAM

Irwin P. Miller. Services were held for Irwin P. Miller March 25. Irwin was born in Arvada and was a life-long resident of the area. Burial was in Crown Hill.

He married Barbara P. Crane in 1933 in Colbran, Colo. He was superintendent of the Zuni Steam Plant of the Public Service Co. for 27 years and retired in 1972. He was a member of the Arvada Historical Society.

Pauline Lauthen. Services were held April 15 at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church for Mrs. Pauline Lauthen. Burial was in Garfield, Minn.

Mrs. Lauthen was born in Scobey, Mont. and educated there and Northern Montana College at Havre. She was married to George Lauthen in 1938.

She was a secretary for the Jefferson County School District and a member of the Arvada Historical Society.

Sidney E. Koon. Funeral services for Sidney E. Koon were held on April 17. Koon was a letter carrier for 20 years, served as Arvada postmaster 1956-1964, member of Arvada Historical Society. He was elected Man of the Year in 1964.

Sidney was born in Auburn, Neb., educated in Wellington, Colo., had an engineering degree from University of Colorado.

He married Clara Nelson and moved to Glenrock, Wyo. Before coming to Arvada the Koons lived in Seattle, Wash. and Aurora.

-----ahs-----

YEA '76 GROUP AT APRIL MEETING

The YEA '76 group of high school students were present at the April meeting and indicated they would like to join the Society and become actively involved with the Historical Society Centennial activities.

This is the only formally organized Centennial youth group in the State of Colorado. Their title YEA '76 represents Youth Every Age for the Arvada Centennial-Bicentennial.

Under direction of Dirk Mathis, a teacher in Arvada schools, the group has been actively involved in decorating the shovels for the Arvada Center ground breaking ceremony, assisting at ACBC kick-off dance and at the program of the Koshare Indian dancers at Pomona High School.

Amanda McAninch, a member of the group, was presented a copy of Waters of Gold and heartily welcomed into the Society. We are looking forward to working with this enthusiastic, capable group.

-----ahs-----

CORNERSTONE CEREMONY SEPT. 6, 1975

The Arvada City Council voted favorably upon the Arvada Center Committee's recommendation to have the Masonic Grand Lodge of Colorado lay the cornerstone for the Arvada Center.

Mrs. Ilene Larson, Arvada Center Board Chairman, made the report to the Council on the cornerstone laying.

Ilene said the Center Board and the Arvada Centennial - Bicentennial Committee agreed in January that a cornerstone laying would be apropos.

In February the Center Board voted to ask the Arvada Masonic Lodge No. 141 to coordinate the ceremony. The Colorado Grand Lodge accepted the invitation and the Arvada Lodge will provide the cornerstone and casket to hold items placed in the stone.

Mr. Duane Derr, Past Master of Arvada Lodge No. 141 and chairman of the cornerstone committee, was spokesman for the Masonic Lodge.

The ceremony is tentatively scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 to be in accord with the Arvada Harvest Festival.

-----ahs-----

The Arvada Historian. Published quarterly November, February, May and August by The Arvada Historical Society, Box 419, Arvada, Colo. 80001.

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HELLO FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope all members and friends will --read the Historian this month from front to back to get a good feel for all of the outstanding projects and events we are engaged in;

--plan to visit the Arvada State Bank and our exhibit of "The Spirit of the West" before noon on May 17, because it is a unique opportunity to see pioneer Western photography, purchase one of these pieces of art for your home or office and contribute to your Arvada Historical Society, all in one fell swoop;

--come to our next membership meeting on May 27 -- it will be something extra special; and

--participate in the dedication ceremonies for the Gold Site Discovery Park on June 22.

All of our projects are right on schedule and we have added some new ones. The youth of Arvada are becoming more and more interested and involved. Working with the Bicentennial Commission and events of historical importance planned in connection with the Centennial-Bicentennial celebration is proving to be the spur to increased interest and enthusiasm we had hoped for.

We are planning our annual meeting for Sunday, Aug. 24, to be held in conjunction with the Old Timers Annual Picnic. Note this date, too, on your calendar as it will be something special in which you will want to share.--Bruce Buell.

-----ahs-----

Every time you turn green with envy you are ripe for trouble.--G. B. Shaw.

SECRET PTA GIVES \$100

The Arvada Historical Society was very pleased to receive a check for \$100.00 from the Secrest PTA.

It was presented at the Mother-Daughter Tea and Style Show on Tuesday, April 22 and delivered the same night to the Historical Society meeting in progress at City Hall.

The Society deeply appreciates this gift and a special thanks go to Karen Salen outgoing president.

-----ahs-----

PROJECT REQUESTED BY CLOVER 4H CLUB

Mrs. Kay and Mrs. Silvers attended the April meeting. They represented the Clover 4H group who had researched and presented the Society with a beautiful book on the Ralston Cemetery last year.

A request was made for a project for the girls, age 9-13, that could be done for the Society this summer.

Their first project is to research the kind of trees that grew in Arvada and possibly at Ralston Park area in 1850. Their findings are anxiously awaited.

-----ahs-----

"THE SPIRIT OF THE WEST"

Don't miss the pleasing and history-filled picture exhibit at Arvada State Bank through May 17, 1975.

The photographs, reprints of Peter Nicholson glass plate collection, display the making of our West. It includes Indians, cowboys, miners, small towns, and especially the pioneer mother.

Exhibits of this quality have been displayed at the State Historical Museum, but this is Arvada's first.

Special thanks to Ann and Harold Storm--Ann for arrangements and "Stormy" for promotional material. Lindy Lindstrom and Bill Miller built the display boards and Sherry Smith, Mildred and Louis Graves and others helped in mailing the invitations.

Thanks are extended to President Winstead and the Arvada State Bank for cooperation and support of the exhibit. Proceeds will benefit the museum fund.

-----ahs-----

JOSEPH AND ANNA CALABRESE SPANO

Joseph Spano and Anna Calabrese were married in 1904. Joseph was 19, Anna 16.

In 1905 the couple got together and in 1906 they moved to the city of Arvada. Joseph was 20, Anna 17. They were interested in the circus and rodeo.

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JOSEPH AND ANNA CALABRESE SPANO

Joseph Spano and Anna Calabrese were married in 1904. Joseph was 19, Anna 16. In 1905 the couple settled at 45th and Elsie, now Newland Street. Joseph was born in Palermo, Italy in 1885, and Anna was born in Denver, 18th and Platte, in 1888 to Augustine and Providence Calabrese.

John Calabrese, a second cousin of Joseph's father, came to the Denver area in 1876 with his father, Augustine and brother, Jim. Jim died young. John returned to Sicily in 1897 and brought Joseph Spano, 13, and his father to Denver in 1898. John found employment for both in the Leadville area. That same year Joseph's father died and his place of burial is not known.

Joseph Spano was decisive as to his goal in life. He attended Opportunity School and was an avid reader. To know the English language better he kept a large dictionary on a buffet beside his chair and it was in constant use.

He taught his children to learn one new word each day, to learn its meaning and how to use it. Joseph came to America because it offered him the opportunity to own land and to further himself in a nation of equality. His children were taught that America owed them nothing but they owed America everything.

Joseph was a truck farmer and raised the first Pascal celery in the region. He was a commissioned merchant, active in shipping produce out of Denver and an investor. He was active in the Colorado Vegetable Growers Association in the 1920s, and he attempted to organize farm labor. He was a member of the Democratic party and participated in the campaigns.

Anna's father, Augustine Calabrese, bought, trained and sold horses. He was one of first licensed peddlers in Denver. He loaded his wagon each day with commodities the housewives would need and sold it door-to-door. John Calabrese, and his father Augustine, brought many boatloads of mules and donkeys from Italy to the United States. On one trip, a boatload of the animals was lost at sea and John lost most of his capital in that tragedy.

Anna remembers, as a child of 8, when Buffalo Bill's Circus came to town and set up across the street from their home at 18th and Platte. Her brothers worked at

the circus. Salvatore Calabrese, brother of Anna, like his father was interested in horses, circuses and rodeos.

Mrs. Lydia Calabrese, wife of Salvatore, recalls that when her husband supplied bucking broncos for the circuses and rodeos, a young man visited the horse corrals frequently. He identified himself as Tom Mix. Salvatore learned quickly that Mix loved horses, too.

Tom Mix served in the Spanish-American War, Boxer Rebellion and as a sheriff in Kansas. Mix joined Miller "101" Ranch in 1906 and Sells-Floto Circus in 1909.

The two men became close friends, traveled together to California in 1910. Salvatore became homesick and returned. Mix went to Hollywood and became a Western movie star. Mix was killed in an automobile accident in Arizona Oct. 12, 1940. Salvatore died in 1952.

In 1936 Anna, with the help of several other ladies, originated the fund raising St. Anne's Spaghetti Dinner. Funds raised were first used for the Italian-American Society and later given to the Altar Society. Anna served as "head cook" for 18 years and made the best spaghetti this side of Rome.

----ahs----

SOCCER (Cont. from Page 1.)

ards, a boys team. The Panthers coached by Sharon Booton and the Lizards by Dave Edwards.

The KHOW and the Arvada Coaches game had moments of pure soccer brilliance, balanced with a little football and old-fashioned monkey-shines. Final score 2-2.

H. Albert Phibbs, member of the Arvada Historical Society, planned the event with support of Bill Miller of the Arvada Soccer Association.

Ann Storm's committee, augmented by some of the historical daughters, ably managed the popcorn and soft drinks, and John Bacher was of great help to the committee.

Thanks to those members who took tickets, managed pre-game ticket sales and helped in other ways. Money is still coming in. To date the fund is \$670.00 to go to the museum. This is the way to do it group. Congratulations.

----ahs----

THE ARVADA GARDEN CLUB

By Inez Johnson, Club Historian

The Arvada Garden Club was organized Sept. 1, 1937 at a meeting of the Woman's Club held in the hall of the First National Bank. Mrs. E. A. Kehn brought Mrs. Richards, State Garden Club president, and Mrs. Kyle, organization chairman to the meeting.

It was voted to organize immediately, and those present at the Woman's Club were invited to join. Twenty-three responded to the invitation. Of those 23 charter members, nine have continued with the group to date.

At the end of the first year we had an enrollment of 50. Dues were assessed at 50¢ a year.

Mrs. E. F. Hennessy was chosen as our first president with Mrs. Phil Wainner as vice president; Mrs. C. V. Young, treasurer and Mrs. E. A. Kehn, secretary. Our meeting time, 4th Monday of month, 1 p.m.

The tree chosen as our symbol was the hackberry because of the historic tree that had stood on north Wadsworth hill for more than 100 years. We had a kodak picture of the tree and a cut made from that, which has been used in our Year Books.

The Club was to move the tree when the highway was to be cut through the hill, but the night before the event vandals had cut the tree down. Our silver banded gavel is made from a branch of the tree.

Our chosen flower is the iris with colors of Violet and green. Our motto is: To develop the natural beauty of Arvada, and the community. Our chosen bird: the lark bunting.

We have published a Year Book and made a scrap book of our activities for each year. Many prizes have been won at state and district conventions for our books. Members have done the designing for book covers..

Flower Shows have been held each year usually in conjunction with the Harvest Festival. In early years our exhibits won many cash prizes, but in recent years there have been only ribbon awards. As many as 1,000 visitors have registered at our flower shows.

We have carried on therapy programs, giving aid to Ft. Logan and Fitzsimons Hospital patients. At Christmas time we have

assisted other clubs in making and decorating 450 Christmas trees for the boys at Fitzsimons. We also contribute magazine subscriptions for them.

As memorials to our deceased members we give "Reforestation Certificates" -- which provide for replacement of trees in the Colorado forests. A number of our members are accredited flower show judges. Mrs. F. C. Vetting, National Senior judge, Mrs. T. L. Lewis, National Master judge with Mrs. Kosanke and Mrs. Glenn accredited judges.

There are 14 state Life members. The state requires a payment of \$25.00 for life member.

We are justly proud of these members who have served in State capacities. Mrs. E. A. Kehn who composed the State Garden Club song; Mrs. Kosanke past State President; Mrs. Ling and Mrs. Moss who each edited the state magazine Colorado Gardener; Mrs. Maurice Johnson, past State treasurer and auditor, and Mrs. Ann Moss director and secretary of the Board on the Denver "Home and Garden Show." Mrs. Lucy Roth for many years supervisor of the Christmas tree project at Fitzsimons.

Thirty-two women have served as president. Each has been well supported in club projects and activities. Our projects have all been carried out with the idea of beautification and benefit for Arvada.

Tramway Park, where the street car used to operate, was our first project. This was between the C&S depot and tramway cut.

Mrs. Britton, an accomplished black resident, did the landscaping. 176 trees and shrubs were planted along with 250 iris and vines on the rock wall. A stone marker made by a Mr. Yeakel and stone bench given by the Junior Gardeners still remain, along with one lone tree.

Trees and shrubs were planted in church and school yards, 22 spruce and lilacs were set out in the Arvada Cemetery, and the triangle at the intersection of Lamar and 52nd Ave. was a beauty spot, with barberry, juniper, iris and blooms in season.

Lilacs and iris were planted on Grandview from Wadsworth "cut off" to Lamar with the idea of obscuring the railroad and beet dump.

The plantings at McIlvoy Park were quite extensive. 100 perennials were set out and

(continued on Page 6)

GARDEN CLUB (cont. from Page 5.)

1,000 tulips. In 1959 a spruce tree was planted as a living memorial to Dr. Russell, our first mayor. A carved stone marker identifies the tree. For many years it was lighted for the holiday season. Also a spruce was planted as a memorial to Mr. Vetting who made many horticultural contributions to the Club. Shrubs were contributed and planted at the Lions Club entrance. Also a planter on Wadsworth Avenue is maintained by the Club.

Perhaps the projects which required the greatest efforts were the roadway plantings in 1961. Much credit is due Mrs. Maurice Johnson and the late Mrs. Rubin Craig, wives of business men, for their supervision.

Sears Roebuck Co. rewarded clubs for beautification in home towns. Our club received four such cash awards totaling \$1,450. Two for roadway islands on Wadsworth by-pass and Ralston Ave., one for landscaping Library grounds in 1967, and one for Memorial Hackberry Park on North Wadsworth under direction of Mrs. Lucy Roth and Mrs. Ruth Selle. State Highway Officials erected a sign and State, County and town officials attended dedication ceremonies in 1968.

The Club sponsored Mayor Gilbert in designating the Hopa Crab as the official tree of Arvada.

The Arvada Garden Club is a member of the State and National Federation.

PUBLICATION OF ARVADA'S HISTORY

The future publication of Arvada's history has been endorsed by the Jefferson County Centennial-Bicentennial Commission and the Arvada Centennial - Bicentennial Committee.

The Editorial Board had sent in the necessary forms in application for Colorado Centennial-Bicentennial endorsement. The Board was concerned with the reply which was received from CCBC and sent a committee of two to discuss the matter. Mr. Ron Pierce was most apologetic about the title error and indicated that an additional letter would be written.

A copy of Waters of Gold and an excerpt from manuscript were presented to Mr. Pierce. He assured the committee he had received all necessary information and was confident More Than Gold would be acceptable for Colorado Centennial-Bicentennial endorsement.

Mr. Pierce suggested we apply for endorsement of Waters of Gold, which we have done. A band with the State logo will be placed around the remaining copies of the first history of Arvada, if accepted.

The Colorado Centennial - Bicentennial Commission will include all endorsed material in a huge CCBC book and will publicize all endorsed material in the various local newspapers. The two Arvada Historical Society publications will be judged at the next CCBC meeting the end of May.

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