



# The Arvada Historian

VOLUME II

AUGUST 1976

NUMBER IV

## ARVADA CENTER DEDICATED

By Rusty Morse

The Dedication of the Arvada Center on July 4, 1976 was a happy event for those members of the Historical Society who could attend. The ceremony was attended by City, State and national officials including Senator Hart and Dottie Lamm. The special honor of a plaque was presented by the City to our own Lois Lindstrom. Lois wore a gown designed after the style worn in the 1870's, and wore her blue tennis shoes to remind us all that everything takes work.

Members of the Society were reminded that everything takes work, not just "beautiful dreams". Certainly Lois left little doubt that beautiful dreams and work, or vintage gowns and tennis shoes could be as successful a combination in the future as it has been in the past for the Arvada Historical Society.

After the program, which included speeches by the elected officials, The New Christi Minstrels provided special entertainment.

----ahs----

## REUNION DAYS '76

My Marcetta Lutz

Arvada Reunion Days was held August 29, at the North Jeffco grounds. Over 200 people enjoyed this Centennial event. Each family received a small booklet containing Frank Bayer's early recollections of Arvada. The favors were edited by Gene Stockdale and printed by Wilbert Martin.

The program started with the presentation of the flag and an accompaniment of the "Star-Spangled Banner". The color guard was from Boy Scout Troop No. 267, and the three trumpeters were from Arvada West High School. Bruce Buell was the Master of Ceremonies, with Marcetta Lutz assisting. The nine old-time natives of Arvada who told about their early experiences in our fair city were: Aldis Bruce, Hazel Crowfoot Yousse, August Graf, Helen Wagner Maloney, Ray Juchem, Elinoe Barnum Swanson, Emil Schneider, Beulah Lewis, and Robert Black, Sr. The program was a varied and delightful experience.

Each person on the panel was given a Colorado Centennial medal. Inez Stout was also awarded a medal for having started the Old-timers Picnic. The class of 1930 had the largest number present and were awarded Centennial buttons. Members of the class who were present were: Marguerite Graves Jones, Merv Welke, Lowell Bowen Todd, Elmer Branaman, Ruby Reed Bennett, and Ruth Reed Fletcher. Centennial mugs were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Avis, who had come all the way from Columbia City, Oregon. Inez Johnson, the oldest resident, received a miniature Colorado flag.

I would like to thank all those who have been previously mentioned and all those who made this event possible, namely: Mary Jean Schaefer, Dorothy Fields, Dorothy Galloway, Mildred Graves, Billie and Bob Barton, Marie and Bob Meininger, Marjorie Thomson, Sherry Smith, Marilyn Lytle, Harold Storm, Rusty Morse, and the Arvada Centennial-BiCentennial Committee.

----ahs----

## THE GHOST OF RALSTON CREEK

By Ann Storm

The June 22 meeting of the Society was held on the anniversary of the first gold discovery in Colorado. The Ghost of Ralston Creek, a play written by Lois Lindstrom, was presented by the Girl Scouts of Troop 513 under the direction of Anne Wallen, Jo Hayes and Sue Farrar. The girls did a wonderful job with an excellent play. We very much appreciate all of the time and effort that was put into this project.

----ahs----

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

By Marcetta Lutz

Future meetings of the Arvada Historical Society will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Arvada Center. Mark your calendar so that you will not miss any of the special activities.

The coming year will surely prove to be very exciting for members of the Society. Many decisions will have to be made concerning our museum and other on-going projects. We are hoping a majority of the membership will be at the meetings to guide our organization.

----ahs----

## SOCIETY RECOVERS STONE INSCRIBED WITH DATE OF EARLY SCHOOL

After searching for nearly a year, the Historical Society has the stone which inscribes the date from the brick school house on Wadsworth. The building is located on Wadsworth between Grandview Ave. and 57th Ave. Many of us will remember this as the old Theater Building.

In response to the rumor that the stone was "still around town", Harold Storm, Jr. and Lindy Lindstrom went into the business located on the corner of 57th Ave. and Wadsworth to talk with Mr. John T. McGraw of Littleton, Colo., owner of the Dinner Box. Mr. McGraw took them to the basement where they found the stone which had been left there many years ago. The stone was originally across the top of the door of the school house and bears the date 1893.

----ahs----

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Centennial '76 has come and gone - and following it another year in the life of the Arvada Historical Society. We have come a long way with a long way to go.

Many unrecognized people have given of themselves to the Society-- and a big "thanks" must be given to them, as well as to those in the spotlight. As in every organization, many projects have been completed, and many started and not completed. An organization lives on its ambitions-- and dreams. May the Arvada Historical Society always have an ambition and a dream to drive it onward.

It has been a rewarding year for this president, and a privilege to have had the support of outstanding committees.

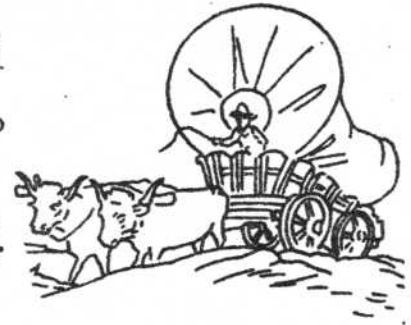
Harold "Stormy" Storm, Jr.

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

Editor: Erna Reye Kirk, 6985 Owens, Arvada, Colorado 80004. Telephone: 422-1626

In Charge of Mailing: Marilyn Wimmer, 421-2115

News Deadline: The first day of the month of issue.  
Copy delivered promptly expedites preparation for publication.



#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

By Jane Gardner Vice-President

The Annual Meeting of the Arvada Historical Society brings to an end a busy and successful year. It also signals the time for renewal of your membership. The up-coming year will prove even more rewarding and exciting than our previous years with the opening of our Museum. We look forward to your continuing support and enthusiasm, and hope that you will share the opportunity with your friends. Our community is blessed with talented people who would be grateful for your invitation to be a part of our progressive organization. Membership is still only \$2 per person. Send to: Jane Gardner, Vice-President c/o The Arvada Historical Society, Box 419, Arvada, Colorado 80001.

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#### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Arvada Historical Society on August 21 was a dinner meeting at Bernard's and provided a festive evening for the nearly 70 people who attended.

Mrs. Lois Wilson presented a check for \$1,000 from the Arvada Womens Club and gave a brief history of the organization.

The program was presented by Mrs. Matilda Campbell from the Westminster Historical Society. Mrs. Campbell gave an interesting account of the comparisons and contrasts of the sister cities of Arvada and Westminster. The program was concluded with a slide presentation by Russ and Jane Gardner on early area schools.

Humorous plaques were presented to some of the hard workers in our Society by out-going President Harold Storm, Jr. Marcetta Lutz was honored with a life-time membership in the Society for her dedication and uncounted hours of work on the Publication Committee. Louis and Mildred Graves have given a great many hours to the Society in the past year to establish the Speakers Bureau. The history of Arvada has been brought to many students in area schools through this program. Mr. and Mrs. Graves were given life time memberships in the Arvada Historical Society.

Following the election of officers, we had a message from Marcetta Lutz, President of the Historical Society for the coming year. Jane Gardner will be the Vice-President, Billie Barton is the Secretary and Sherry Smith will be our new Treasurer.

Board members for the year are: Billie Barton, 233-6958; Bruce T. Buel, 424-7547; Jean Claeys, 422-6369; Louis O. and Mildred Graves, 424-5798; Nick C. Keller, 422-0365; Roy G. Larson, 424-3627; Robert Leishman, 421-1024; Lois C. and W. A. Lindstrom, 422-1944; Marcetta Lutz, 421-0842; Marilyn Lytle, 279-1491; Ron Rigg, 428-7678; Russell A. Morse, Jr., 421-0837; Dale R. Ostrander, 422-3651; H. Albert Phibbs, 421-7508; Sherry Smith, 421-0323; Ann Storm and Harold W. Storm, Jr., 421-2628; Marilyn Wimmer, 421-2115.

-----ahs-----



## MUSEUM GUIDES

By Lois Lindstrom

Plans are being made for an organized group to serve as museum guides when the Arvada Center opens in September. Caroline Newman is calling our membership to ascertain a time when an individual member could serve on a regular basis. If you can give of your time in this way and have not been called, please get in touch with Mrs. Newman. Telephone: 422-1357.

A training session for museum guides will be held prior to the Museum opening. History of various articles displayed will be provided.

Serving as a guide is very rewarding and a lot of fun. We need you - and if you have not been contacted, PLEASE accept this responsibility and contact Mrs. Newman.

----ahs----

## PUBLICATION HITS PAY DIRT

By Marcetta Lutz, Publication Committee Chairman

Arvada's second history More Than Gold was finally released July 30, 1976. Those who have previously ordered the book have been notified and out-of-town copies have been mailed.

Others who wish to purchase a copy may obtain one at Arvada Heritage Printers, 5603 Yukon, or at the Museum in the Arvada Center, after it is officially opened. The cost of the book is \$10.

The Publication Committee would like to thank you for so patiently waiting for this Centennial Edition, and hope that the long wait will prove to be worth it.

Well deserved credit is due to all those who have given of their time, efforts and contributions in making this book possible.

----ahs----

## BARN LOWERING

By Lois C. Lindstrom

In the true spirit of the Arvada pioneers, members of the Arvada Historical Society participated in a "barn lowering" on June 12, 1976.

Mrs. Fern Stott has very generously donated the old rosey-brown barn wood to our Society to be used in building the museum display. During the day, she supplied water and coffee to the workers in the same tradition that women brought refreshment to men in the fields in Arvada's early days.

"Lindy" Lindstrom and Russell Gardner spent the week previous preparing the barn for the crew. Beginning at 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning the workers removed the barn wood, stacked it, pulled nails and tore out timbers. At noon a delicious family type picnic was enjoyed under the old trees, and by 4:00 P.M., most of the old barn was gone.

Those who participated were tired and sunburned at day's end. Their discomfort was forgotten in the feeling of accomplishment and the fellowship of working together on a community project.

The following members gave of themselves to the project: W. A. Lindstrom, Russell Gardner, Jack Dionigi, J. C. Rakke, Roy G. Larson, Chad Newman, Jim Rakke, David Null, Linnea Lindstrom, Kathleen Friese, Tim Krenke, Kay Wimmer, C. W. Smith, Casey Brown, Bobby Hodapp, Kirk Chapman, Danny Teets, Marilyn Wimmer, Ann Storm, Harold Storm, Marcetta Lutz, Sherry Smith, Ronald Rigg, Terry Rigg, David Young, Laura Storm, Cynthia Storm, Fern Stott and Lois Lindstrom.

----ahs----

## HARVEST FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

We will have a float in the parade. Kathy Setgast, Nick Keller, and Nick's daughter, Maryann, are hard at work on that task, and will surely do their usual great job.

The Board of the Arvada Historical Society has reluctantly decided not to have a booth at the Arvada Harvest Festival. We need to channel all of our energies in the direction of the museum at this time. There is much to be done and we cannot spread ourselves too thin.

-----ahs-----

## VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Workers are needed EVERY Saturday 9-5, and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:30, for construction of the Historical Society Display. Please meet at the NEW City Shops located on the west side of the road at 6701 Indiana. Our work is being done at the south end of the first bay around in back.

We are also in need of old material of 100% cotton or wool, old boots and hats to costume mannequins. If you have any of these articles please contact Ann Storm, 421-2628.

-----ahs-----

## AN EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

Because Lloyd and Leona Gorrell had given so much of their professional time to the book, More Than Gold, a gift was presented to them at the April meeting of the Arvada Historical Society. A dictionary and a check for \$500 was the Society's way of thanking them.

The check was returned with a letter from the Gorrells. Parts of the letter are printed below so that the membership may enjoy it's contents:

"Enclosed is the check that the Arvada Historical Society so graciously presented to Leona and me for our work on More Than Gold. Although we both are extremely grateful for the spirit in which it was presented and most appreciative of the fact that our efforts were so recognized, we cannot, in good consciousness, accept this money. Neither of us helped with this project hoping for monetary reward. Instead we hope that we have contributed, along with other members of the Society's Publication Committee, something that will preserve and enhance the history of Arvada.

"While our contributions to this book were perhaps a little more technical in nature than some of the others who worked on the book, we feel that every one connected with this project helped to make it the success we think it will be.

"Returning this check does not in any way diminish Leona's and my appreciation of the thoughts behind it and we shall always be grateful for this expression of thanks.

"Leona and I do want to sincerely thank the Historical Society for the dictionary presented to us and we shall enjoy it and use it many times. Please express our thanks to the entire membership of the Arvada Historical Society."

The Historical Society is grateful for having such members as Leona and Lloyd Gorrell.

-----ahs-----

## THE WHEAT RIDGE "SODDY"

By Billie Barton

While over a million sod houses were built on the American prairies, the Wheat Ridge Soddy at 4610 Robb St. is the only sod house remaining along the front range of the Rockies. The property where the sod house is located was on a land grant given October 1, 1867 to Private Captain Polomia Garcia y Padilla by President Andrew Johnson. Garcia y Padilla, a veteran of the New Mexican Volunteers of the Navajo Indian Wars, never lived on the land and immediately assigned his land rights to James H. Baugh.

It is not known who built the sod house nor why, since wood and stones were so readily available in the area. It is surmised that the builder had migrated from the prairie regions, where sod houses were common and that he constructed the soddy about 1886.

Four inches of the original 24-inch thick walls have eroded away through the years. However, the overhanging eaves were helped in retarding massive erosion. The addition of hog-pen wire and nature's contribution of woodbine have also assisted in the preservation.

Wheat Ridge Department of Parks and Recreation began restoration in 1973, using funds raised through community projects. The house is remarkably close to its original condition. It was entered on the National Register of Historic Places on March 14, 1973.

Dedication and the official opening of the Wheat Ridge Sod House and Historical Park were held on Saturday, May 22, 1976. The official welcome was given by Tom Dodd, Jr., Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Frank Stites, Mayor of Wheat Ridge, also spoke. Mary Calhoun, chairman of the Jefferson County Centennial-BiCentennial Commission, presented the Jefferson County Centennial Plaque. A Centennial Flag was presented by Mr. Pulcifer of the Colorado Centennial-BiCentennial Commission. A plaque was also presented from Historic Denver. Richard Cesaro of the Wheat Ridge City Staff presented an historic coin that had been found in the Soddy during the restoration. Following the program tours were conducted through the museum building and the Soddy. Members of the Wheat Ridge Historical Society served as hosts and guides and were appropriately dressed in period costumes.



Mr. & Mrs. Harold Lutz  
3864 Hoyt St.  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Arvada, Colo.  
Non-Profit Organization

THE ARVADA HISTORIAN  
The Arvada Historical Society  
Box 419, Arvada, Colorado 80001