



# The Arvada Historian

VOLUME IV

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## FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM MARCETTA LUTZ

We have come a long way in one year's span. This date last year, we were working against time to get the "Beginnings Exhibit" completed before the Museum opening reception on September 28th. The affair was most successful and paved the way for a profitable year in our new home.

Since February, the museum has been staffed by volunteer receptionists. They have done a fantastic job indexing the archives, and we are most grateful to all of them for their dedicated service. The Arvada City Council has unanimously passed the Arvada Historical Society proposal to employ a Museum Assistant through Cooperative Educational Training Act (CETA) funding. This will greatly benefit everyone concerned and will improve the museum operations this coming year. Volunteers will still be a necessity, but their services will be much better coordinated through a professional Museum Assistant.

In six months' time, we have completed our first Guest Book. 2075 people and 75 tours have visited the museum. All the visitors seem to be so enthusiastic about the facilities at the Arvada Center. It is rewarding to be a receptionist when one realizes the work he or she is doing is a real service to the public.

I want to thank each officer, the committees and their chairmen for their continuous support. Many things have been developed this year, which should contribute to the overall operation of the Arvada Historical Society. After serving a year as president, one can't help but realize what a dedicated and marvelous group the Arvada Historical Society is. I want to thank every one of you for the opportunity to have served as your president during the 1976-1977 year.

The Historical Society has been left in good hands, with such a capable slate of officers and board members. With your continued and cooperative support, there is every reason to think that this next year ought to be bigger and better than the last one. Best wishes to our new president, Bob Barton, and to all who will be working with him during the 1977-1978 year.

----ahs----

## ARVADA SCHOOL DAYS EXHIBIT

The Arvada Historical Museum has focused in on the early schools of Arvada. The exhibit will run until October 1st in the Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd.

It has been exciting to receive new information on the Arvada area schools. We appreciate all the items that were dug out of attics, basements and backyards, which are vital to the evolution of the Arvada schools.

In the Fremont display case, is the first graduation program of that school in 1893, and a pin dating back to 1900.

We have also recovered the program from the first graduating class at Arvada High School (now Lawrence Elementary) in 1904. Angie Bates was the lone graduate who designed her own programs for printing. The graduation exercises were held in the "Bank Hall", i.e., the community room above the First National Bank of Arvada.

(Cont. page 2)

## ARVADA SCHOOL DAYS EXHIBIT (Cont. from page 1)

The first issue of two Arvada High School publications are on display, the 1905 issue of The Echo, and the 1922 issue of The Trumpet. The 1976 Centennial issue of the Redskin Arrow, the current publication, gives much of Arvada's early history.

The 1900 stone blocks of the first Arvada High School have been donated to the museum and are on display.

In addition to these items, there are several high school graduation programs, annuals, pictures, autograph books, report cards and promotion certificates, McGuffrey's Readers and other textbooks, composition books done by the students in the early 1900's - and even a teacher's examination test of 1922.

The above school memorabilia were contributed by:

Frank Wideman - one 3d-grade postcard picture, one 5th-grade postcard picture; Frances McNaughton - 1908 postcard of Arvada High School (Lawrence); Andy Pitt - pictures; Aldis Bruce - brick, Swift Shale Brick Co.; Edna Highlands - 1905 issue of Arvada Echo; Stella Schneider - clippings, year book, pictures; Helen Maloney - pictures, clippings Arvada Trumpet, 1922 highschool pub.; Jack Olson - pictures; Marjorie Thomson - 2 annuals, 1904 program; Margaret Cooper Lee - Cherry & White, My School Days book. Thanks also to Lloyd Gorrell, Lester Witt, Emil Schneider, Lee Ryan and Billie Barton.

The "Mini School of Yesteryear" was designed from a 1917 second grade picture of the Wadsworth School, which was located at 5650 Wadsworth Blvd. The schoolroom is equipped with a mannequin as the teacher, teacher's desk and chair, Regulator clock, students' desks, books and slates, pot-bellied stove, coal bucket and shovel, lunch pails, sunbonnets, blackboard, map, students' art work, water bucket and ladle. A deacons bench, used by the visiting school board members and parents, is located opposite the schoolroom.

Those who contributed items for the schoolroom are:

Edna Witt, Elsie Huebner, Mary Jump, Mildred Graves, Jean Stump, Jan Colpitts, Fern Stott, Lois Lindstrom, Ann and Harold Storm, Bob Leishman, Mary Blue, Marcetta Lutz, Rex Lowell, Marilyn Wimmer, Helen Carey Lipperd, Russell Gardner, Edna McCormack, Mike Chetterbock, Jack Dionigi, Jefferson County Schools and the Arvada Center.

The exhibit could not have developed without the help of the volunteers, who actually put it together. The following people should be commended for contributing their time, talents and equipment:

Maryann Keller, Ann Keller, Edna McCormack, Sherry Smith, Billie Barton, Helen McKenney, Lois Lindstrom, Lorraine Vlaanderen, Dorothy Slotnick, Debbie Leimer, Marcetta and Harold Lutz, Ilene Larson, Ann and Harold Storm, Russell Gardner, Alice Prather, Jean Claeys, Marilyn Lytle and Jean Dunn.

## LOANERS' LOANS

All those who have loaned items for the Arvada School Days exhibit may pick them up from 10:00 A. M. until 2:00 P. M., Monday and Tuesday, October 3d and 4th.

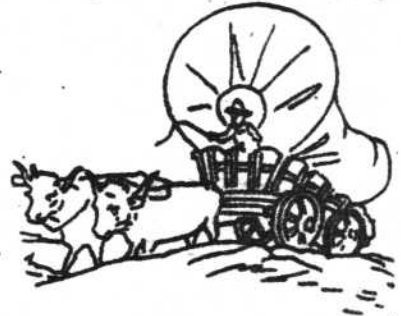
-----ahs-----

## NOTE

If you happen to have, or know of, any artifacts and/or records of area schools - Denver View, Ralston, Fremont, Semper, Wagner, Haines-Balinger-Mitchell, Leyden, Lathrop, call Jean Claeys at 422-6369 or Marcetta Lutz, 421-0842.

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FLASH!

Our new President, Robert Barton, has been hospitalized recently. All Society members wish Bob a speedy recover.

-----ahs-----

#### ANNUAL MEETING

By Marilyn Lytle, Publicity

AHS held its fifth annual meeting Saturday, August 20th, at Bernard's Restaurant in Arvada. Elected officers for the coming year: President, Robert Barton; Vice-President, Ann Storm; Secretary, Erna Reye Kirk; Treasurer, Betty Stockdale.

New Board members for the three-year term: Jack Dionigi, Robert Kerlee, Betty Stockdale; Ilene Larson will be filling the unexpired 2-year term previously held by Roy Larson. Other reappointed board members: Robert Leishman, H. Albert Phibbs, Harold W. Storm, Jr, and Marilyn Wimmer.

Speaker of the evening was Clive Cussler, author of Raise the Titanic. Retiring President, Marcetta Lutz, was presented with a plaque in appreciation for her fine leadership in the organization. Bruce Buell was presented a plaque and an honorary membership for his dedicated service.

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#### OLD TIMERS' PICNIC

By Dorothy Galloway

The Arvada Historical Society, along with the Old Timers, had a great time "Remembering When" at the picnic Sunday, August 28, 1977, at North Jeffco Park. Mr John Bacher was the Master of Ceremonies. About 225 people attended. Flowers, vegetables, fruits and canned goods were on display, as well as a replica of the "ape man", originally performed by Hiram Brown at one of the early Festivals. Prizes were given to the classes of 1914 and 1922, who were celebrating reunions.

Prizes were also given to the oldest lady, Mrs Inez Johnson, and the oldest man, Mr George Stipek. A prize was given to Mr Aldis Bruce for being the oldest man there who was born in Arvada. Prizes were given to the lady and man who came the longest distance. Leona Page Conta and Herbert Nolte were the recipients.

Recognition was given Mrs Inez Stout for starting the first Old Timers' picnic.

Free pumpkin pie was given to the lucky people who had the marked cups.

The program ended with a square dance group performing under the leadership of Mr Fred Rowe.

The committee: Mrs Dorothy Galloway, Chairman; Mrs Dorothy Fields, Mrs Billie Barton, Mrs Betty Stockdale and Mrs Mary Davis

-----ahs-----



## FREMONT SCHOOL - A. D. 1903

By Isabel Hooper Mote

(Editor's note: I feel we are extremely fortunate in publishing this nostalgic bit of Arvada's history. We are in hopes that other long time residents may uncover past memories, events, happenings. So, look in that attic, the cobwebbed basement, those forgotten trunks... perhaps you, too, will discover a valuable portion of our "heritage".)

"I wonder sometimes if we should claim Arvada as our home through all the years. Living on Ward Road, we were on the border-line, and received our mail through the Golden Post Office (R.F.D.) until 1921, when we finally received our mail through the Arvada Post Office.

"We always considered Arvada our home, our shopping place, church, etc. The only times we went to Golden were when we took wheat to the Golden Flour Mill for grinding into flour, or to pay our taxes.

"I began my education at six years of age, at the Fremont School where my four brothers had preceded me. By this time, Fremont had two rooms (Big room) and (Little room).

"Miss Trefeison was my first teacher. We had had Miss Helen Lawrence for five years, and hoped she would stay on, but she decided it was time to move in to the Arvada schools, and there she taught until retirement. Lawrence school is named for her.

"Following Miss Trefeison came Faye Willett and Nora Den Pree, all excellent teachers, and we felt fortunate to have them. Some teachers who came later were not so satisfactory, we felt, but by that time I was in High School.

"We remember good times and bad, of course. There were usually some difficulties.

"Students I remember best through those early years were Wesley and Della Moreland, four Stott boys and one little sister, Dulcina, Gay, Crissie and May Brinkerhoff, the Newcomb family, Earl, Dora, Etta & Neil. Two Paul children, a girl & a boy. Some of the Rogers boys. The Davis boys, the Kimmett boys, two Milner girls, May Bell, Percy and Irene Roberts and Anna and Thelma Radstrom - Fred and Perle Jump - and others. Cassius and Gary Town.

"Cassius was the thorn in my side for several years. For some reason he seemed to have a special pick at me & tormented me until one day I had to lose my temper and fight him just like a boy. After that he let me live in peace.

"The good times were school programs, last-day-of-school picnics, usually up Ralston Creek, or Coal Creek, by hay-rack.

"Nora Den Pree was very innovative, a very imaginative and hard-working young woman, who had many migraine head-aches from trying to deal with mischief-making 'big' boys. But, she kept interest going and won their respect.

"She instigated Box Socials and other projects for earning money to buy a piano, so we didn't have to use the old pump-organ any more.

"Also she organized a 'Literary Society' so that people could perform - some recited poetry, some sang, some took part in plays or Dialogues or debates. It was all interesting and worth while.

"Wesley Moreland and I were the only ones of our class to go on into high school. And by this time, his family had moved from the farm into Arvada. But I felt so privileged to be able to continue school that it never occurred to me to complain about the four-mile walk night and morning in to Arvada High School & home again, every day, rain or shine, hot or cold, I was there!

FREMONT SCHOOL - A. D. 1903 (Cont. from page 4)

"In 1910 the High School was the south side, second floor, of what is now Lawrence School, 6th, 7th & 8th were on the north side.

"At the beginning of my Sophomore year, the school was in need of an accompanist for the Morning Exercises (Assembly) that Professor Drake carried on through his 19 or 20 years as Principal of the High School. Nell Nicholson had been accompanist for two years, and she had graduated.

"Mr Drake asked for volunteers, but I was too shy to speak up or offer to try. But my present sister-in-law, Jessie Griffith-Hooper stood up & stated that I was capable. So began three good years as High School accompanist. Those were happy and fulfilling years for me.

"Aside from this honor, school was quite routine. One thing we all remember was the big snow-storm of December, 1913. Busy in school, we didn't realize what was happening, but by the time school was out, I had no way of getting home. I have been eternally grateful that again the Griffith family came to our rescue and took three or four girls to their home where we were marooned for a week.

"Again, musical concerts and Graduation exercises were the high points of High School life and those are the things I remember best.

"They were good days, and we took them in stride, not afraid of, or complaining about, a few hardships that would look impossible and insurmountable to today's youth."

----ahs----

#### MILL RESTORATION

By Lois C. Lindstrom

We are making exciting plans for the restoration of the Arvada Flour Mill (Tiller's Mill). An application was submitted to the National Historic Preservation Act: Grants-in-Aid program for funds for this project. We are eligible for this application because we have listed the mill in the National Register of Historic Places.

This is a matching-funds grant, which means we are going to have to work to acquire our part of the funds. The Board of Directors of our Society was polled by telephone for permission to proceed with this project, since the information about this grant was not available until after our last meeting. Fifteen members of the Board were reached and agreed to proceed with the application, to pledge 2,000 hours of volunteer work, to pledge \$1,000, and to hire H. Albert Phibbs as designer for the renovation.

Notification of awards will be made January, 1978. If we are accepted, work must commence in June, 1978, and be completed September 30, 1978.

Our preliminary plans call for a museum display featuring the conversion of wheat into flour, a meeting room and other small areas for which definite plans have not been made.

This is another big step for our Society. We all must help. Even the smallest donation will help. If every member donated only \$1.00 above your dues, we would have almost \$500.00. Some of us can do more. Make your check payable to the Arvada Historical Society, P. O. Box 419, Arvada 80002, and remember to deduct it from your income tax. Mark your check "Mill Museum".

We are also going to need all of you who helped build the museum plus many, many more. Part of our matching funds will be all of the hours our volunteers donate. You will remember how much fun we had, and this time, maybe we will keep a log of "Alby" Phibbs jokes!

This is our next big challenge, group.....Let's go after it!

----ahs----

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE.

Those who have not renewed their membership in the Arvada Historical Society were sent notices reminding them that their 1977-1978 dues are now being collected. The dues remain at \$2.00 per member, but we are asking for additional donations to defray the Arvada Historical Society's rising costs. New members may mail their dues to Gene Stockdale, Arvada Historical Society, P. O. Box 419, Arvada, CO. 80001. Make your checks payable to the Arvada Historical Society.

In order to update the Historical Society Roster, there will be a 90-day grace period for paying your 1977-1978 dues. Anyone who has not paid their dues by December 1st, will not be included in the Roster Supplement, and will not be eligible to receive The Arvada Historian newsletter.

RETURN YOUR ENVELOPES NOW, LEST YOU FORGET.

-----ahs-----

## MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

By Jean Claeys

Space does not permit adequate descriptions of all the lovely and interesting donations we have received this spring and summer. We are grateful to the following people:

Delbert Collicott, who gave us a special gift - an organ which came from the Ralston Valley Church, and dates back to the turn of the Century. He also donated a corn sheller, a meat syringe, books and two Navajo rugs. Leota Caldwell, who donated a quilt made by her mother in 1925. Harold Sayre, for a dual safe which came from a general store in Marble, Colorado. It was made about 1900, and has an inside safe which has never been opened. Maybe we should become acquainted with a safe-cracker to find out what is in it! Ron and Alice Baker, for 74 assorted books and high school texts, dating from 1895-1928. Inez Johnson, a 93-year-young member of AHS, for several articles of hers that were worn or used at least 75 years ago. The unique baptismal dress that she herself wore 93 years ago was made by hand by her mother. She also gave us her baby shoes (1885); her late husband's derby, 1907; several table scarves; a WW I Red Cross head scarf; a man's silk handkerchief, a lace mantilla, camisole, a ribbon glass vase. Ruby Osborne, for a pin holder made from a piece of the original Hackberry Tree. Charles Millard, who donated a corn lister in the name of Marion Ula Bray. The lister is at least 80 years old. Lee Ryan, for 5 stone blocks from Arvada school, around 1900, acquired from Greenlee Stone Co. in 1939. Helen Carey Lipperd, whose grandparents were Mr & Mrs George C. Swadley, for many Swadley family pictures, books of Sally Swadley Carey (her mother), her old report cards, baby shoes and walking shoes, autograph books and a framed picture of Dry Climate times, 1915. Dick Hess, who donated 3 samples of barbed wire, mounted on a wooden plaque, after presenting a most interesting program on this hobby. Carl Noel, for his gift of the display case that sets next to the reception desk in the Museum. It presently displays a copy of Waters of Gold and More than Gold, plus our postcards and some early trolley pictures. Mrs Elsie Huebner donated the Regulator Clock obtained in 1928, by her father. L. O. Culver. Bill and Margaret Allspach donated 2 button hooks for button shoes. B. Pearl Nicholson of Santa Barbara, Calif., for a biographical brief and also a photograph of the Mayor of Santa Ana, Calif., signing the Proclamation for Constitution Week. B. Pearl Nicholson was the chairman of the event. Cecil Ayers, license plates, Jeff. Co. 1976. Helen Maloney - Grange material; Charles Orcine - Model T tools. Janet Willson- crochet sheets

(Cont. page 7)



## MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS, Cont. from page 6

top, pillow cases. Nell Capps - holiday pictures.

We thank all these people for sharing their treasures with us. If there are other items anyone would like to donate for the further enhancement of our Center, please call me, Jean Claeys, 422-6369.

-----ahs-----

## MOFFAT TUNNEL - 50th ANNIVERSARY

AHS received a letter from the Colorado Railroad Historical Foundation, Inc., announcing that the Colorado Railroad Museum and the Moffat Tunnel Commission is celebrating their 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Moffat Tunnel, February 25-26, 1978. They wish to locate material regarding the operation of trains through the Tunnel prior to and shortly after the opening. They hope that some "Moffat people" (Denver & Salt Lake Railway) are still around, and would have material they could borrow for use in a publication they are planning for the event. Specifically, they need public and employees timetables for 1926, and/or 1927; folders, tickets or other printed materials dealing with the period of the opening of the Tunnel or later.

Mr William C. Jones invites any AHS members interested in the celebration events, including a ceremony at East Portal and opening of the Time Capsule. Call Mr or Mrs Jones, 279-4591 or 424-5610.

-----ahs-----

## "STOP THE WORLD...." REPORT

The Arvada Historical Society benefit of the above musical was a mildly successful venture. The Society netted \$585.84 profit ..... Needless to say, if everyone work as hard as a few, the results could be ten-fold. Be a true supporter of your Society - urge new members, agitate present ones, volunteer for a job, PAY YOUR DUES - get involved!

-----ahs-----

## VOLUNTEERS ORIENTATION

The next orientation for the Arvada Center "receptionists and docents and tour guides" will be held September 12th. The orientations are at 10:00 A. M., 1:30 P.M. and 7:30 P.M. All participants and prospective volunteers, docents and tour guides are to attend one session, whichever is the most convenient. A basket will be distributed containing many items the volunteers have requested. These vitally important sessions kick off the second successful year at the Arvada Center.

Plans are being made for a volunteer coffee each month, and additional tours to art museums and other museums in the Metro Area.

You are urged to become immersed in the second exciting year at the Center.

(Editor's note: F. & W. definition of "docent": Noun. A person licensed to teach in a university, but without the charge or dignity of a professor; a tutor"...etc. So, what's a docent?)

-----ahs-----

## REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The first meeting of the SIXTH year of the Arvada Historical Society will be held Sept. 27th, at 7:30 at the Arvada Center. Let's make this a record year for attendance of members and Board members. After all, it's your Society. Only you can make it greater than ever. Okay?

## ERNA REYE KIRK...

Many thanks to this courageous lady for her outstanding efforts in "putting this newsletter to bed" four times a year - for two whole years. Erna was patient, kind, exacting and very sweet. All Society members certainly must be extremely appreciative for Erna's good works, and wish her well in her position as Secretary.

----ahs----

## POST CARDS

The old fashioned post cards mentioned in the May newsletter are still available and on sale at the reception desk in the Museum at the Arvada Center.

----ahs----

We heard of an eleven-year-old boy who was taught to tell time by the position of the sun by his farmer-grandfather, a fine, religious old man. The lad took pride in letting his family and friends know the time of day, actually within minutes. However, Daylight Saving Time was proving to be his downfall. One evening, he arrived home quite late. The family had eaten dinner. His mother admonished his tardiness, noting by the kitchen clock that it was after seven.

The boy looked up at her and said solemnly: "But, Mom, it's only ten past six - - God-time."

----ahs----

Mrs. L.W. Clays  
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