



The Arvada Historian

VOLUME VII

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NUMBER 3

THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIVILEGE

By Jack Dionigi, President

I often wonder why we have presidents. There seems to be a person called "president" in every conceivable organization. This is the person at the top - the one whom people are supposed to be impressed by, because of his leadership qualities, wisdom, ability to grasp a situation and make all of the right decisions in order to bring any activity to a successful solution. Webster defines a president as: "An officer appointed or elected to preside over an organized body of persons." I can say with pride that I am President of the Arvada Historical Society. But, then, in all humility, why and how anything is accomplished is very apparent....It simply is because of the great number of super people in the Society who always approach each new problem as an opportunity to prove that it can be done. The number of hours spent in accomplishment of these tasks is overwhelming, and I am ever amazed and pleased to find these people so willing to continue in their dedicated insistence to succeed.

My sincere appreciation to such wise and knowledgeable people who are promoting the organization during my term as President: The Arvada Center's staff; Frank Jacobson; Irene Vance; Paula Duggan; Margaret Alexander; the Foundation and Center Boards, with their excellent chairmen, Ron Tegtmeier and Don Gardner.

Their cooperation with our Society signals a richer life for the Center and our Society.

---ahs---

HISTORIC BOX MISSING

By Marcetta Lutz.



McIlvoy House, pictured left at 7307 Grandview Avenue once housed the Arvada Library and currently is a branch of Jefferson Co. Mental Health Center. The home was originally built for Mr & Mrs Dennis D. McIlvoy in 1897, and the property is now known as McIlvoy Park.

Mrs Clemency McIlvoy donated the property to the Town of Arvada over 60 years ago, and insisted that the Town take immediate steps to construct gate posts at the entrance identifying it as McIlvoy Park. The Town Board also planned to preserve some historical features by keeping them safely in

the Archives of the gate posts.

The pillars were completed and the historic box placed in a crypt in one of the gateposts at a dedication ceremony, July 15, 1919. Mrs McIlvoy was greatly pleased concerning the items being preserved for future generations.

Continued on Page Two

HISTORIC BOX MISSING, Continued from Page One

Contents of the box were listed in the Arvada Enterprise, issues of July 10, 1919, and July 17, 1919.

Mayor Richard Russell wrote the following letter:

"Greeting: This tract of ground (2.7 acres) at the entrance of which this gate is today being erected, was deeded to the Town of Arvada and the people thereof, May 8, 1919, by Clemency McIlvoy, 85 year old, widow of the late Dennis Donley McIlvoy, one time pioneer and friend of the early scouts, Carson, Bridger, Baker and others. Her gift was made according to the expressed wish of her late husband, and with the understanding that it shall be known as McIlvoy Park. The Mayor and Trustees of the Town of Arvada accept this trust and erect this gateway to announce the location, purpose and manner of this magnificent gift.

"At present this proposed park contains a modest, two-story brick residence, a few trees and flowers, and two acres in corn.

"D. D. McIlvoy was born 1824, came to Arvada in 1847 and died in 1913. Clemency McIlvoy, born 1834, is still living at this writing.

"It is hoped that he who opens this receptacle in the distant future may find a place more beautiful and restful and more simplified than anything our generation can even imagine.

(Signed) "Dr Richard Russell, Mayor

"C. C. Townsley, Clerk"

Other items, according to the Arvada Enterprise, were two Arvada papers, The Sun and the Enterprise, the Golden Globe, the date of the founding of the First National Bank, a bank statement of recent date and a photo of Senator Wesley Staley. Also date of founding of the First State Bank, checks, note, slips, Red Cross button, Liberty Loan button, etc., 1919 annual of Arvada High School; a Resolution of appreciation to Mrs McIlvoy by the Town Board, various photos, professional and business cards, along with Mayor Russell's letter.

Sometime, in the not too distant past, the brick posts were removed and the historic box was brought to light. I have searched extensively for several months to locate it, but, thus far, my efforts have been in vain. Many people have a recollection of the pillars at the Park, and that such a box was recovered when the posts were removed, but no one seems to know what happened to the box and its contents.

Anyone knowing anything at all about the ceremony that took place when the posts were removed, the whereabouts of this historic box and the bronze McIlvoy Plaque, please contact me, 421-0842.

The greatest reward for recovering the missing crypt will be to see it and the contents on display at the Museum in the Arvada Center.

---ahs---

NEW MUSEUM/GALLERY PERSONNEL

Margaret Alexander has been hired as the new part-time Curatorial Assistant. Margaret has a Masters of Library Science from the University of Oregon, a B.A. with honors from the University of California at Riverside, in history, and has recently completed more graduate work in American History at Northern Illinois University. From 1975-78, Margaret was Archivist at the Kansas City Museum of History and Science. She has worked in a variety of museums which deal with the cultural history of the regions they represent. Margaret's experience include curatorial care, exhibit planning, research and cataloging.

...Plus a warm and smiling personality. Welcome, Margaret Alexander.

---ahs---

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News Deadline: The first day of the month of issue.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS - DUES STRUCTURE

By Bruce Buell

Notice is given that a proposal to amend the Bylaws will be considered at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors in May.

The change was suggested by Stan Miller, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, in order to maintain a balanced budget in future years. It would involve an increase in certain classes of membership dues, effective August, 1980.

Bylaws Article II. 1. Would be amended to read as follows: (Strike-throughs indicate present language to be changed or deleted.)

"The corporation shall have five classes of members, to-wit:

"a. Individual members shall pay annual dues of ~~\$3.00~~ \$6.00 per person, ~~\$5.00~~ \$10.00 per couple or family ~~and \$8.00 per family~~, with Senior Citizens (60 years and over) to pay \$3.00 per person.

"b. Business, professional and institutional members shall pay annual dues of ~~\$15.00~~ \$25.00.

"c. Sustaining Members (no change, remains at \$50.00)

"d. Honorary Members (no change - no dues)

"e. Life Members (no change, remains at \$100.00)"

---ahs---

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

By Ruth Larson

Get-well cards have been sent to Ilene Larson, Kenneth Gorrell, Lucy Roth and William J. Milner. A sympathy card to Dr & Mrs Gail Gilbert on the death of "Doc" Gilbert's mother.

If you know of anyone ill, give me a call at 424-3627.

---ahs---

PUBLICITY

By Marilyn Lytle

The Arvada Historical Society is sponsoring the first annual Tri-High Music Festival on May 18th, 2:00 P. M., at the Arvada Center Amphitheatre. Three high schools, Arvada, Pomona and Arvada West, will provide their very fine choirs. Your support of this enjoyable money-raising event is appreciated. Tickets, \$2.00 each, can be bought from any member of the Society, at the gate on May 18th, or call Jack Dionigi, 422-3923.

Help your Society by helping yourself to an afternoon of sheer pleasure in song.

Your donation is tax deductible (oh! lovely words), and a back-up location will be provided in case of rain, snow....whatever!

---ahs---



MERIT MOTHER OF 1980

Esther Lloyd recently was chosen Colorado Merit Mother for 1980, by the American Mothers Committee. She was chosen for the award for her outstanding accomplishments in her career as teacher, homemaker and church and civic duties and responsibilities.

Esther, of Arvada Historical Society fame, and her husband, Reece, have resided in Arvada for many years. A luncheon was held in her honor, as well as a reception by the Hope Circle of the Arvada United Methodist Church and Delta Conclave of the Kappa Kappa Iota Sorority.

Special congratulations to Esther. A fine contribution to the Society and our fair City.

---ahs---

PUBLICATIONS/ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

By Marcetta Lutz

This Committee has been working on all four burners to complete the research for the third history of Arvada. In this process, we have had many items donated to the Society archives. We are grateful to the donors for supplying these missing links of Arvada's history:

Framed Treasurer's report; assessment roll, 1881; school census report, 1882, from Dorothy Galloway.

Several copies of the "Green Thumb" containing articles about Milton J. Webber, from Bernice Peterson and the Denver Botanic Gardens.

A book titled "Ancestors of Henry R. and Margaret E. Howe" by W.D. Howe. The book prints information of the Henry Adams Howe family, who lived in Arvada from 1910 - 1920.

Women's Club Minutes, 1913-1970; two books written by Judge Samuel Johnson, "As the Years Rolled By", and "Autobiography of Samuel Wallace Johnson"; and a copy of "Rhymes of the Rockies from Colorado," by Ora Kehn, from Inez Johnson.

A 1915 copy of the Colorado State Song "Where the Columbines Grow", by A. J. Fynn and a February 22, 1917 newspaper article reporting how the Arvada School music class of thirty students, under the direction of Earl Johnson, performed before the Colorado Legislature on February 21, 1917, to have this song retained as the Colorado State Song. These items were donated by Stanley R. Skivington, author of "When Young Singers Won Over the Legislature", Denver Post, Empire Section, March 16, 1980.

Denver Water Board Supply System Map and a small medicinal box, labeled "Honest John" corn "Killing" plasters, which held several appleseeds. Given by Lieutenant Earl Kitchings, formerly of the Arvada Police Department.

Three books by the Wheat Ridge Historical Committee: "1976 Centennial-Bicentennial Activities", "History of Pioneer Wheat Ridge" and "Biographical Sketches of Early Settlers of Wheat Ridge", gift of Wheat Ridge Historical Society.

Five stereopticon pictures of early Arvada donated by Mrs Frank Bayer.

Early Arvada City papers given by Jane Gardner, "The Chief"; 1941 Arvada High School annual and pictures, and other memorabilia from Arvada High School plays and operettas, contributed by Ruth Shaffer McEwen

1932 Arvada High School annual donated by Bob Meininger.

The Committee would also like to thank all those who have provided pictures for reproduction, and those who have contributed to our biographical research. Those of you who would like to be contacted for an interview and/or who have early pictures of Arvada, please contact me, 421-0842.

---ahs---

FLASH... Watch for the publicity concerning the future "Early Families of Arvada" exhibit in the Museum.

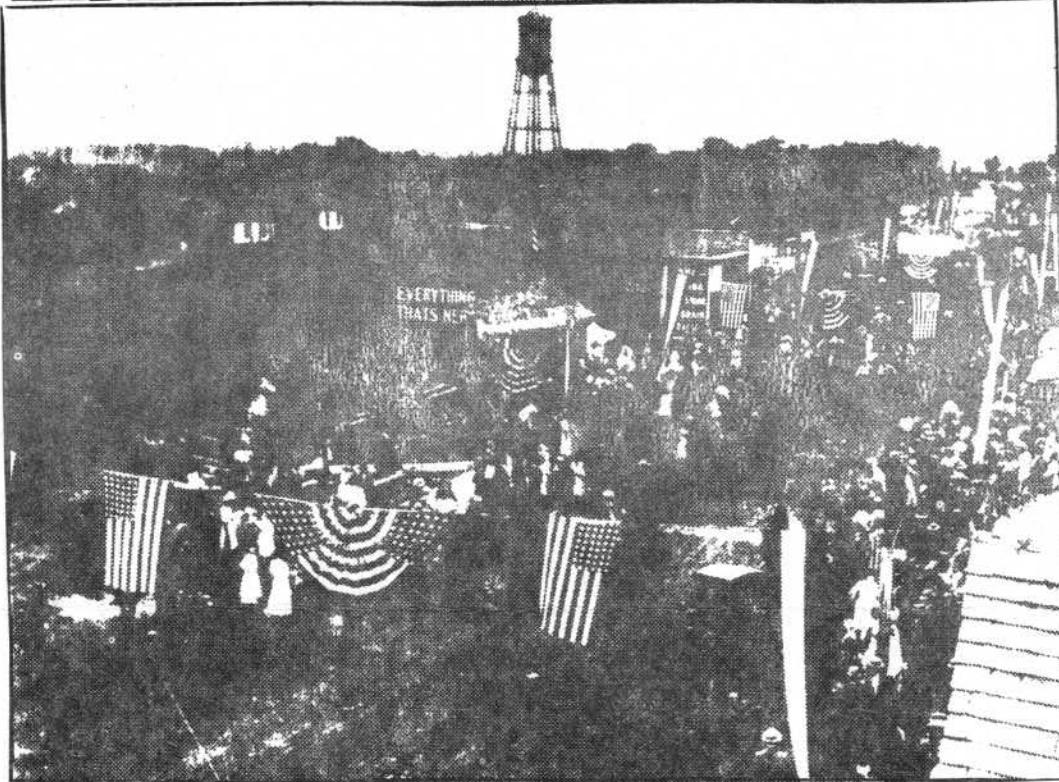
---ahs---

ARVADA BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

By Edna Kaye

The following list of business and professional friends support The Arvada Historical Society in our work and philosophy. The Board of Directors and officers for the year 1980, hope members show their appreciation by returning the favor when possible. We can reciprocate our thanks by patronizing these businesses and services.

Arbor Auto Parts 8410 Wadsworth Blvd	Craig Chevrolet 5555 Wadsworth By-Pass	Larry Huke Furniture 5777 Wadsworth Blvd
Arvada Ace Hardware 9491 Ralston Road	Crystal's Cut & Curl 5624 Yukon	Leeper Insurance 8690 Ralston Road
Arvada Hardware 5701 Wadsworth Blvd	Culligan's Collection 7425 Grandview Ave	The Liquor Station 9969 W. 80th Ave
Arvada Heritage Printers 5603 Yukon	Dairy Queen 7580 W. 64th Ave	Majestic Savings 7577 W. 80th Ave
Arvada Optical 8850 Ralston Road	Duane's Men's Store 9540 W. 58th Ave	Marshall Liquors 5216 Marshall
Arvada Rentals, Inc. 10675 Ralston Road	Empire Automotive 5768 Wadsworth Blvd	Monroe's Economy Mkt 5751 Wadsworth Blvd
Arvada Chamber of Commerce 7305 Grandview Ave	Empire Savings & Loan 5695 Yukon	Montgomery & Assoc. 5604 Kendall Court
Arvada Grooming (All Breeds) 5721 Yukon	Gordon's Flowers 9465 Ralston Road	Northwest St. Bank 7878 W. 80th Pl.
Barber-Nichols Engineering 6325 W. 55th Ave	Harry Parmenter Ins. 8100 Ralston Road	Omar's Stationery 9306 W. 58th Ave
Baskin-Robbins, Inc. 12370 W. 64th Ave	Holliway Insurance 5765 Wadsworth Blvd	P.D.Q. Food Stores 9989 W. 80th Ave
Bill's Rubbish Removal 7505 Ralston Road	Insurance One 4643 Wadsworth Blvd	The Printery 9426 W. 58th Ave
Carson's Apparel 5608 Yukon	Jacobson & Partners 8600 Ralston Road	Re-Max West 11005 Ralston Road
Cloverleaf Realty 5480 Marshall	King Soopers 12350 W. 64th Ave	Thoro Products Co. 6611 W. 58th Ave
Coco's 8008 Yarrow	Lake Arbor Bikes & Hobbies 7519 W. 80th Ave	Ward Road Vet. Hosp. 5015 Ward Road Wheat Ridge
Colo Market Industries 6735 W. 58th Place		Secrest P.T.A. 6875 W. 64th Ave



IN THE GOOD OLDE
SUMMERTIME
CLOWNS BALLOONS
REFRESHMENTS
FUN
SIDEWALK SALES
ARVADA'S 76TH BIRTHDAY
ARTS & CRAFTS
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The above photo, viewing west on Grandview Ave. to Olde Wadsworth, is the first Strawberry Days Festival, held in June of 1911. Mrs Helen Smith was the Festival Queen then, and hopefully, she will be again in 1980, when the Arvada Central Business Association is promoting a SUMMERTIME OF FUN IN OLDE ARVADA.

June 14 - kids' day. Entertainment; Star School of Dance; John O'Lackin, magician; Kym Messina, ventroloquist; "true to life" western gun fight; fortune teller; graphologist; John White of Grandma's House of Antiques, will do free antique appraisals; clowns; organ grinder and monkey; free balloons for kiddies...

July 12 - Quarter Moon Blue Grass music; Dixieland band; barber shop quartet; folk music.

August 23 - Strawberry Festival. Square dances; Barry Thorpe, folk singer; old fashioned band concert in the park; arts and crafts of only those that could have been available 76 years ago. Co-sponsored by ACBA and the First National Bank.

Gary Pettit of Starwest Productions will Emcee....Bill Redden's old buggy will be on display....and more:

45 arts and crafts booths will be located in the Park, along Olde Wadsworth and Grandview all three dates.

For further information contact Bobbi Nation, 423-2302 - - or if you wish to rent space for a booth, call Bobbi.

---ahs---

ARVADA REUNION PICNIC

By Bill Milner

North Jeffco Recreation District has waived the use-fee on the new picnic pavilion, located on the east side of the Ice Arena, for our Annual bash to be held August 31st. The structure is designed to seat over 200 picnickers at tables....SUNDAY, AUGUST 31st, 1:30 P.M.

Be there...Bring friends, relatives and lunch.

---ahs---

IN MEMORIAN

By Marcetta Lutz

Lillian Gilbert Bullock passed away February 7, 1980, a few days before her 96th birthday. She was an unpretentious lady, whose life needed to be shared by more than her many friends. Because she was a rebel in her youth, valued life and living, and bridged the generation gap to a greater degree than many younger than herself, it is necessary to relate the highlights in her unusual life.

Lillian Hunt was born March 19, 1884, in Exira, Iowa. When she was five years old, her mother left her father. For many years, she spent winters with her mother in Des Moines, Iowa, and summers with her father on the farm. Her childhood was not pleasant, and she learned what she wanted and did not want out of life at an early age. Her mother was an excellent milliner and made hats for many fine ladies. Lillian was left on her own a good bit of the time, and developed an independent spirit.

During her early school years, she had a severe case of measles, which affected her eyesight and hearing. However, she could hear well enough to learn to play the piano. In highschool, she gave music lessons, worked in a bakery and in a drug store. She arrived at the drug store at 7:00 a. m. as well as after school until 9:30 at night. She was paid \$1.00 per day - and all the candy she could eat.

After she left highschool, she entered Drake University, where she studied music for two years. But, being the rebel she was, Lillian looked for wider horizons. She investigated the available homestead properties, and chose several acres in Lusk, Wyoming. On her own, she "proved up" her homestead, and remained on the property for about seven years. She had fond memories of those pioneer days. She worked on the place all day and many a night, she would get all dolled up, ride her horse to a dance in town, and ride back at dawn.

Lillian met her first husband, Louis Gilbert, in Lusk. He was a Range Inspector there. They were married March 14, 1914, and returned to Mr Gilbert's home town, Fowler, Colorado. Louis went into ranching, and Lillian rode horseback to the homes of her many piano students. While in Fowler, Louis's sister, Elizabeth Hedgecock, passed away, leaving several young children. Lillian wanted to take all of them, as she didn't want them to be separated. But the family decided to parcel the children out to various members of the family. The Gilberts were given the youngest child, Gail Hedgecock, whom they raised as their own son. Later, when Gail was 18, he legally changed his name to Gail Hedgecock Gilbert.

Louis accepted a job as county agent in Hugo, Colorado, where the family remained for nearly a decade. By 1934, there was a vacancy for County Agricultural Agent in Arvada. Louis obtained the job, moved the family to Arvada, and bought their home at present address of 6060 Pierce. The Gilberts worked their small farm, raising chickens and selling eggs. "Grandma" Gilbert enjoyed baby sitting, selecting her own charges. It was considered an honor for Grandma to pick your child, and they all remained her friends and she their confidant for the rest of her life.

Louis Gilbert died in October, 1967, and Grandma Gilbert remained by herself until 1978. She refused to be a burden to her family, and after several brief illnesses, she was admitted to the Arvada Health Center. She hated her new home, until she met Tom Bullock. The two became great friends and were married at the Center, March 24, 1979. She was 94, Tom was 84.

Tom Bullock died five weeks after Lillian's death. She is survived by her son, 8 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Lillian touched many lives, and was a great friend of the youth. All who knew her benefited from the experience. She will be sorely missed.

SPEAKERS'S BUREAU

By Jane Gardner

I had an opportunity to present a slide show on Arvada History at the Presbyterian Church. In the audience were some sweet "Old-Timers" who enlightened the entire presentation with interesting "Oh, I remember" and "I recall when". That's what is so much fun when I do this.... Someone in the crowd always adds a personal comment or two.

For a date for your group, call me, 424-0755.

THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION lost a valuable and devoted member, Charles Ryland, from Golden, April 12, 1980. Charles was a charter member, and contributed much to the Commission in many areas. He helped design a new Historical Map of Jefferson County, and helped organize some activities at the Festivals of the West. We enjoyed his fellowship, and his sharing of travels to Africa and Siberia. We will miss him very much. A memorial fund was established in his memory at the Golden Library.



---ahs---

UNTITLED, by the Editor

1904 - The year Arvada was incorporated. Also, a couple of other worldwide, earth-shaking events were happening:

Cadillac Motor Car Co. was created by reorganizing the Detroit Automobile Co., under the aegis of Henry Martyn Leland...

The George N. Pierce Co. began a career as the leading U. S. producer of luxury motor cars. It built 50 Great Arrows, selling from \$3,000 to \$5,000 each...

The Chinese Red Cross was established at Peking and Shanghai...

Dr Scholl's arch support is patented by the Illinois medical school graduate and former shoemaker-salesman, William Scholl, age 24...

Helen Keller (no relation) graduated magna cum laude from Radcliffe College, and began to write about blindness, a taboo subject since many cases were related to venereal disease...

Marie Curie discovered two new radio-active elements in uranium ore...

George S. Parker of Parker Pen Co. obtained a patent, May 3d, for a lever mechanism, making it easier to fill the pen's rubber sac. (Surely you recall the old "fountain pen". Probably an endangered species, if not completely extinct.)...

One work of fiction introduced in 1904, was by O. Henry, age 42, "Cabbages and Kings." William Sidney Porter, his real name, was charged 8 years previously with embezzling funds from a Texas bank where he worked. What a character - he fled to Honduras to escape prosecution, but returned when he learned his wife was mortally ill. He was convicted after her death, and served 3 years of a 5-year prison term...

1904 was the year the opera "Madama Butterfly" (one of your Editor's very favorites) opened in Milan, Italy. Music by Giacomo Puccini...

A Broadway musical "Higgledy-Piggledy" opened at the Weber Musical Hall in October. In it were Anna Held and Marie Dressler...

The famous George M. Cohan wrote music and lyrics to "Give my Regards to Broadway" and "Yankee Doodle Boy" for the musical "Little Johnny Jones", which ran for only 52 performances. Some of Cohan's most renowned works, buried in an obscure vehicle, became as familiar as "America the Beautiful" and "Star Spangled Banner". But then, Jimmy Cagney plays a part in there somewhere...

The Olympic Games held at St Louis attracted 1,505 contestants from 7 countries. The attraction was a part of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, a belated celebration of the 1803 purchase from France...

Read on....

UNTITLED, Continued from Page Eight

No World Series was held because John McGraw of the New York Giants refused to have his team play the Boston Red Sox...

Auction bridge was invented as a variation on the card game Whist...

The ice cream cone was introduced at the St Louis Fair by a Syrian pastry maker, Ernest A. Hamwi, who sold wafer-like pastry at a fairground concession, serving them with sugar and other sweets. A neighboring ice cream stand ran out of dishes, so, necessity being the true mother of invention, our boy Ernie rolled his wafers into cornucopias, letting them cool, and sold them to the ice cream concessionaire!...

Iced tea was also created at the Fair for much the same sweltering-summer reason...

Campbell's Pork and Beans were introduced, as well as the Campbell Kid cartoon characters...

Post Toasties cereal was put on the market...

Colgate Dental Cream, likewise...

The Gillette razor was patented...

Montgomery Ward distributed its first free catalogues after having sold them for years at 15 cents each...

Caterpillar Tractor Co. had its beginning in the Holt Manufacturing Co. of Stockton, Calif...

The End.

Source: The People's Chronogy by James Treger

---ahs---



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