



"Some people regard private enterprise as a predatory tiger to be shot. Others look on it as a cow they can milk. Not enough people see it as a healthy horse pulling a sturdy wagon."  
—Winston Churchill

COLORADO

SPRINGS

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## Nation's Oldest Homesteader Located in Colorado Springs



BERTHA INGALLS

The oldest homesteader in the United States government. Her active woman of 94 who set up housekeeping in a sod house built by her husband in eastern Colorado in 1887 when wolves and coyotes still prowled the surrounding area. She is Mrs. Bertha W. Ingalls, 1331 E. Willamette Ave. in Colorado Springs, but formerly of the town of Logan, Neb., where she lived on the homestead until 1904. The selection of Mrs. Ingalls for national Realtor Week (May 20-21) to point up the professional hunt of more than a month for the person or his survivors who has continuously resided on, or has continuously held real estate boards are planning to honor at a gala Realtor luncheon on the anniversary of the Homestead Act 23, 1894. She is 100 years old

thru which millions of acres of public land passed to private ownership. The closest competition — the date of issuance of the Government patent to the land being controlled — was provided to Mrs. Ingalls by the following whom did not supply all of the supporting documents required: Mrs. William Schuler, Dalton, Kan., widow of William Schuler, who received his patent on Dec. 8, 1896. Now in a Dalton hospital recovering from a broken hip, Mrs. Schuler came to Cheyenne County, Neb., in 1887. Mrs. Anna Brindle, Hazelton, N. D., widow of Samuel E. Brindle, who received his patent on March 23, 1894. She is 100 years old

and lived on the homestead until she was 95. Mrs. John W. Bailey, Holt, Mo., widow of John W. Bailey, who received his patent for land in Colorado on Jan. 2, 1895. Mrs. Minnie Bennett, Guthrie, Okla., widow of William M. Bennett, who received his patent on Aug. 12, 1896. Mrs. Chauncey E. Barr, Utica, Kan., widow of Chauncey E. Barr, who received his patent on Dec. 8, 1896. "Precious are the memories of homestead days, many of these incidents are more vivid than the events of more recent times," wrote Mrs. Barr. Plans are now under way to make Mrs. Ingalls the guest of honor at a gala Realtor luncheon to be held on May 23 in the Denver Hilton Hotel in Denver. Sponsors of the affair will be the Colorado Association of Real Estate Boards and the Logan County Board of Realtors (headquartered at Sterling, Colo.). Mrs. Ingalls was entered in the contest by one of her grandsons, Jay B. Mabray, a Realtor of Sterling, Okla., who received his patent on Aug. 12, 1896. She will be honored also at a luncheon of the Colorado Springs Board of Realtors on Tuesday of the contest. The claims of all contestants were verified from the archives of the United States and finally galls were married near Peoria, Ill. More than 200 pioneers of their descendants in many of the West-ern states expressed an interest in the search and 65 filed in the contest. Required documents were of NAREB, and Dr. Vernon Car-

ment issued by the United States professor and a leading public galls said that all but one of her lands authority. 13 children were born on the homestead. The facts that won the homestead designation for Mrs. Ingalls are these: her husband, Charles E. Ingalls, who died in 1887, was issued a patent for the southwest quarter of Section 34 in Township 4 south of range time of her arrival, wolves and coyotes were numerous, she said. Meridian in Colorado containing 160 acres by the Akron, Colo. up housekeeping was replaced General Land Grant Office on within a few years by a one and one-half story house that still stands near Peoria, Ill. No trees were in sight of the homestead the early days, but one large tree planted by the associate director of the Bureau to a grandson who farms it. Mrs. Ingalls came to Colorado Springs in 1884, and Mrs. Ingalls died two years later. Mrs. Ingalls (Turn to Page 4, Column 2)

# Oldest Homesteader Located in Springs

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Ingalls moves about her apartment briskly, visits the homestead each summer, and carries on an active correspondence with her children and grandchildren by typewriter — arthritis has affected her handwriting but not work with her hands. She does a great deal of embroidery — largely for great-granddaughters about to be married.

Her own children now range in age from 50 to 72 years, with three sons living in Colorado Springs.

"Altho regarded as the pillar of her family," the Gazette Telegraph reports, "Mrs. Ingalls keeps her mind keen and active thru interests stretching around the globe.

"Current news magazines, newspapers, and television are utilized to the fullest in keeping Mrs. Ingalls abreast of events in the world today. She can discuss world affairs or politics with ease and makes a listener feel stimulated."