



# From Time to Time

A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society

Apr. - June 2017

Vol 8, Issue 2

## 2017 Businesses of the Year named Murray Farm, Commerce City Ace Hardware, and Suncor



Double rainbow shines over  
Murray Farm

### MURRAY FARM – A Centennial Farm

Chevalier Pinkney Murray was born in Morgan County, Missouri and moved to Colorado in the early 1900s. Pinkney Murray married Kathryn Lehi in 1915; and together they ac-

quired 120 acres of farmland near 110th & Havana Street in unincorporated Adams County from Mr. Malone in 1917. They later bought another 40 acres and added 80 more acres on 111th Avenue.

They had a small dairy, raised beef cattle, chickens and grew sugar beets, potatoes, corn, alfalfa, and wheat on the land. Kathryn had a family garden and canned fruits and vegetables for the winter.

They had two boys Benton and Jack. Jack died in 1928 from pneumonia at the age of 10. Kathryn worked as a practical nurse at the Denver Poor Farm which is now the site of

the Adams County Fair Grounds. Pinkney Murray served on the local school board and even hauled bricks to build the Hazel-tine School. The Murray's got electricity in the late 1930's.

In 1934 Pinkney Murray met Roswell Garst of Garst and Thomas Pioneer Seed. Pinkney began selling hybrid seed to local farmers; this sales relationship continued thru different Murray generations until 2015.

During the mid-1940s the Murray's leased land from the Army for growing crops on the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. During the late 50's the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (Continued on page 15)

**Murray Farms (from p. 1)**

### COMMERCE CITY ACE HARDWARE

Commerce City ACE Hardware, originally named Surplus Supply Co., was founded by Jerry Auer in 1947. Jerry Auer was truly a self made man.

Jerry was born in Indiana in 1905. His father was a farmer and ditch digger there. In 1915 Jerry's father decided the Homestead Act out West was a good deal. They could get free land just by farming it for five years. He rented a box car and with all the family goods, chickens, two cows, a couple of goats in one end and the family in the other they came west.

The family ended up on land twenty miles from Pueblo near Haswell, Colorado.

The first house was sod with half of it being underground and buffalo still roaming the area. The family found that their crops planted in the spring dried up with no rain by

mid-summer and they lost everything.

Jerry's father was devastated, turned to drink and it was up to the four children to support the family. Jerry at one time went into Pueblo, worked with paper routes and lived homeless on the street to help.

The family moved into Pueblo in 1919. Jerry had dropped out of high school but did go to Emily Griffith secretarial school. In 1923 Jerry secured a job with Portland Cement Co. in Fort Collins, Colorado working first as a stenographer and rising to be in charge of the shipping department before leaving the company in 1930.

Jerry went to California where his older brother had settled to start a business but this was the depression years and it failed. In 1933 he secured a prime job with the For-



Commerce City Ace Hardware

est Service in Boise, Idaho. There he met, Helen, and married in 1936. Jerry finally finished high school in 1937 at 32 years of age.

In 1943 Helen contracted TB and the family with three young kids moved to Denver where Helen was in National Jewish Sanitarium for five years. The grandparents took in the family to raise the three daughters. Helen survived TB but later died of can-

cer at age fifty.

Jerry was flat footed so could not serve as a soldier in WWII. In 1943 he went to work for the Smaller War Plant and the U.S. Government War Department. At the end of the war Jerry received a commendation for his war service from the U.S. government.

Jerry's job connection with (Continued on page 13)

*Preserving the history of Commerce City because history matters*

## Jean Klein 2017 Citizens of Year named - Loretta Garcia, Dale Mingilton & Russ Watterson

In 2009 when CCHS was organizing the Historical Society, Jean Klein passed away. If you were lucky enough to know Jean you would have known that she would always give you something when she would see you. One of those items was an angel. The angels we put on the plaques were given to us by the Klein family. So they were Jean's Angels!

Jean was very involved in her community. She worked in her community as a realtor for over 40 years (Jean's Realty). She was involved with many organizations. She served on many boards and she was very active in getting our water cleaned up in Commerce City. Jean was President of the South Adams County Water and Sanitation District for 30 years.

At the end of 2009 we were planning our first Annual From Time To Time event and we named our event awards the Jean Klein Angel Award. And she was the first recipient.

The recipients that have made contributions of time, and talent to our city that have profoundly and positively affected our history is the criteria we use to choose our

## Volunteers of the Year



*Volunteers of the Year: Harley Hall and Janet Union.*

When you have a non-profit organization the volunteers are what make it function. Day in and day out we have volunteers.

This year in January we started being open six days a week. This was a big jump from being open one day a week. Museum volunteers are: Rene' Bullock, Debra Bullock, Hester Bonnell, Ron Brown, Esther Hall, Harley Hall, Michael Scanlon, Kristi Douglas, JoAnn Hardt, Sheila Harris, Ticen Mingilton, Pam Meier, Thelma Cole, Charlene Kittinger and JoAnn Stevenson

We also have other volunteers to do many things.

**Our Volunteers of year** are Harley Hall and Janet Union.

Harley does many things in addition to working the museum; moving items, cleaning around our buildings, driving and picking items up. Cleaning and repairing items in the museum. Janet also does many things; a few of the main things are putting together our newsletter 4 times a year which takes a lot of time, working tables at events, and she is one of our Advisory Board members which requires her to attend meetings regularly.

honorees.

This year's recipients are: Business - Murray Farms, Commerce City Ace Hardware, Suncor and Russ Waterson.

Citizens of the Year: Loretta Garcia of the F.I.S.H. Emergency Food Bank and Dale Mingilton, Executive Director of Adams 14 Education Foundation for his efforts in securing scholarships for Adams 14 students.

Go to page six for list of past recipients.

## Museum Volunteers

Debra Bullock  
Ron Brown  
Esther Hall  
Michael Scanlon  
Sheila Harris  
Kristi Douglas  
Reba Drotar  
JoAnn Hardt  
Rene' Bullock  
Steve Douglas  
Hester Bonnell  
Charlene Kittinger  
Ticen Mingilton  
Pam Meier  
Thelma Cole  
JoAnn Stevenson  
Janet Union

## Thanks to all

Commerce City Historical Society board members want to thank all of our volunteers for the many hours they help with events, working the museum, moving items, building displays, donating items and always being engaged.

## From Time to Time Newsletter

*A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society, 6505 E. 60th Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado 80022*

### Board Members

**Esther Hall, President, 303-249-1930**

**Pam Meier, Vice President, 303-901-7486**

**Debra Bullock, Secretary/Treas., 303.946.3426**

**Sheila Harris, Membership, 720.939.0582**

**Vacant, Historian,**

### ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

**JoAnn Stevenson, Casey Hayes, Janet Union, Reba Drotar, Thelma Cole, Valerie Medina**

## Commerce City Historical Society

Twitter: cchistoricalociety@yahoo.com

Facebook: Commerce City Historical Society

Website: cchistoric.com

Email: cchistoricalociety@yahoo.com

Address" 6505 East 60th Avenue,

Commerce City, CO 80022

Phone: 303-288-2590

## Museum Donations

April - June 2017

Dick & JoAnn Stevenson - \$500; The Klein Family - \$500; Debra Bullock - \$50.

## Museum Visitors

April - 22; May - 66; June - 31

## Charter Members:

Joy Bishop  
Hester Bonnell  
Debra Bullock  
Rene' Bullock  
Thelma Cole  
Cindy Comstock  
Gary Comstock  
Kristi Douglas  
Steve Douglas  
Gary Drotar  
Reba Drotar  
Samantha Ford

Sean Ford  
Esther Hall  
Bob Hutchings  
Dorothy Hutchings  
Gene Leffel  
David Lutter  
Dustin McIntyre  
Loretta Petty  
Don Sater  
JoAnn Stevenson  
Dick Stevenson  
Janet Union  
Norm Union  
June Younger  
Troy Younger

## New Members -Apr. - June 2017

Maria Sanchez  
Donna Bailey  
Kirstin Cyprus  
Theresa Garcia  
Max & Joyce Martinez & Family  
Mail Express - Phil Wilson  
Carol Woodbury - Ace Hardware

## Submissions for Newsletter

**Debra Bullock, Photos/Stories, 303.946.3426**

**Janet Union, Editor, 303.288.4768 or**

**unionnorm@qwestoffice.net**

**Proofreading: Valerie Medina, 720.422.0521  
vmedina75@yahoo.com**



*Suncor Refinery on Brighton Blvd*

In 1927, Denver's new Conoco building located at 18th and Glenarm featured the Continental Sentinel atop the roof. After merging with Marland Oil in 1929, Continental's sentinel was replaced with the red triangle design. Continental Oil built a refinery in 1930 in Commerce City, CO. This area became Commerce Town in 1952 when Denver wanted to annex this land into Denver. The refinery first opened in 1931.

In 1938 Conoco built a \$2 million 345-mile long pipeline from Lance Creek Oil Field in WY to Denver and crude oil from the field was also hauled to Denver in railroad cars. Crude came down to what is now Suncor's Plant 2 and at the time produced about 10,000 barrels per day. This facility celebrated 75 years in 2013.

In 1940 and during WWII women took charge of many plant operations left vacant by male employees who went to war. Women operated cranes, laid pipe and worked in the lab developing higher octane fuels and petrochemicals for the military.

In 1958, Conoco VP James Liddell presented a \$17,000 check to Governor Stephen McNichols and the Colorado Centennial Commission to print a million "Rush to the Rockies" 1959 Event calendars. The calendars were distributed worldwide and were designed to stimulate tourism and financial investment in the state.

In 1961, Conoco donated \$7,500 to Denver University's laws center building fund. Also in 1961, the company announced it would invest \$17 million for exploration, production, manufacturing and marketing in the Rocky Mountain region and in 1962 the company would invest an additional \$25 million in the region.

In 1970, Conoco introduced a gasoline additive to reduce air pollution and in 1971, to comply with limitations on visible pollutants, the West plant was upgraded once again when a new catalytic cracking unit was built and a new 600-pound boiler was installed.

During the nationwide gasoline shortage and price spikes in 1976, Conoco pioneered a van pool program for its employees, considered to be the first of its kind in the nation.

In 1977, a \$3.5 million air pollution control project was completed at the refinery.

In 1978, the refinery explosion could be felt as far away as what is now known as Centennial, CO. The damage was extensive, but the plant was rebuilt with many improvements.

By 1983, the refinery was producing 23,330 barrels per day. A new state-of-the art control room, a new office building were among the rebuilding and other improvements that followed the 1978 refinery explosion.

In 1987, the refinery donated money to contribute to the first Commerce City Recreation center building project.

In 1989, Total's Commerce City refinery produced 28,000 barrels of oil per day.

In 1998, Conoco engaged the services of the Process North American division of Det Norske Veritas to conduct a risk-based analysis inspection of the fixed equipment process.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Russ Watterson

Russ Watterson has been involved with Commerce City for 41 years.

Russ was born in 1944 and raised in an industrial town in Magna, Utah, which was at the time and is still, very much like Commerce City. During his growing up years around 6,000 men worked at the Magna operations of Kennecott Copper Company just north of the world's largest open pit copper mine near the mill where his father worked as a skilled worker for 43 years. Just over the mountain from his home, a less than 25 minute drive from Magna, was a 29,000 acre army depot at Tooele, Utah, one of the largest munitions, lethal gas manufacturing and storage facilities in the United States, built, during WWII. In 2000 he negotiated the purchase of 1,100 acres within the Tooele Army Depot which included commencement of platting of 300 acres of residential land and just over 2,000,000 square feet of industrial warehouse buildings.

He married his wife, Nila, in 1967 while they were both students at Brigham Young University in Provo Utah from which they both graduated. They are the parents of 5 wonderful children and 17 active grandchildren. They were married 14 months after Russ returned from serving for two and a half years as a volunteer missionary, at his family's expense, in West Germany.

Russ's association with Commerce City began in 1976 when he became one of the three volunteer presiding authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day



*Russ Watterson, Sr.*

Saints located at 7021 E 64th Ave, 64th and Olive, in Commerce City.

Much later, in 2000, he was called to preside as President of Commerce City Branch to direct, as an uncompensated clergy leader, over all activities of the Commerce City Branch and its membership.

In December of 2004 Russ and his wife were called to serve for 3 years as full time volunteer missionaries and as President and wife to preside over the Baltic Mission for their church with its 2,500 church members and 120 full time missionaries. They reported

on July 1, 2005 and finished on the same date in 2008. Then back to business!

They were called again from 2013 to 2016 to preside over a congregation of young single adults, ages 18 thru 31 which included many young people from Commerce City.

Russ began his deeper acquaintance with Commerce City in early 1972 when he assisted Clyde Kallsen, a former resident of Derby and his wife Pearl, in the legal and financial aspects of planning and conserving their estate. His occupation was specialized around estate planning and conservation for what he called "oil farmers and ranchers." Clyde and Pearl helped him, along with Lee Carlson, of Carlson Associates, with his first foray into development real estate when Clyde asked him to get a real estate license and sell an 80 acre parcel for him, which was soon accomplished.

In 1977 he contracted to purchase 160 acres from Ernie Kallsen, Clyde's brother and his wife Fredda. Ernie and Fredda owned 640 gross acres bounded by 120th Ave and Chambers Road to 120th and Buckley Road with the south boundary being 112th Ave. Three fourths of the property was operated by Scien-Turf-ic Sod Farms under a lease from the Kallsens. The South East portion, a 160 acre purchase, was accomplished in 1978 with his partner, Richard Gormley. This property was Columbine Ranches at 112th and Lewiston. They began planning, platting and developing the property into a development of 36 two and a half acre irrigated home sites. The planning, platting and development took two years.

In 1980 they purchased the north east 160 acres from Kallsens. This turned out to be a difficult time for land ownership. During this difficult time he made a

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Jean Klein Angel Awards -2017



**Loretta Garcia**

Many of you already know Loretta Garcia. She runs the F.I.S.H Emergency Food Bank in Commerce City and has brought food to the needy in Commerce City since 1975 in Commerce City Home. Started by Jo Atkins, Inez Clark and Esther Walthour by opening their home to feed neighbors in need and was incorporated on July 26, 1979.

Jo Atkins: Jo Atkins was born Feb. 1, 1918, in Omaha, NE. She lived in Commerce City many years. In 1960 she was a receptionist at McCoy Company. After the McCoy Company Jo became a realtor and worked for Commerce City Realty. She was a long time active member of Our Saviour Lutheran Church until her death on Apr.1, 2003.

Inez Clark: Inez was born on Dec. 30, 1913, in Woodward, OK. She lived in Commerce City for many years. She had various jobs and loved being a waitress. She lived with MS for many years and worked the food bank as long as she could until her death.

Esther Walthour: Esther lived in Commerce City many years. She was a nurse.

Loretta Garcia: Loretta was born in Phillipsburg, KS. She and her husband moved to Denver in 1966. Later, she divorced and remarried to Mr. Garcia. She has 4 children (Pam, Bob, Rick and Randy) and 5 grandchildren. Loretta worked in the Commerce City Area at several locations including the Great Divide camper business, the Commerce City Police Department, and ADCOM 911. Loretta started volunteering in 1979 at the food bank and became President in 1980. She also volunteers as Alsip Elementary School. She received the Channel 7 Everyday Hero award in September of 2015.

From 1976 to 1979 the food bank operated out of a room at the Catholic Church.

In 2015 Our Saviour Lutheran Church invited F.I.S.H. to move to its facility where it is currently located.

This is an emergency food bank currently located at Our Saviour Lutheran Church located at 6770 Monaco Street. It is an all-volunteer organization which has no paid members.

The food bank is supported through grants, churches, business and individual donations. Denver area schools have also provided dollars to keep the food bank operating. One of the largest financial supporters has been Quality Community Foundation Grant supported by the City of Commerce City. Most of the food is purchased at the Food Bank of the Rockies and the other supporters donate food as well.

The organization serves anyone bound by the area of Denver on the south, Platte River on the west, all of Commerce City, Dupont and Henderson on the north and East.

Today, there are many food banks in the Commerce City area. Loretta has been the one pioneer and true champion for this cause in our community for 38 years and that is why we are honoring her today with the Jean Klein Angel award.



**Dale Mingilton**

Dale is a native of Denver; prior to accepting the position of Executive Director of the Adams 14 Education Foundation, Dale served as the President/CEO of the Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau (BBB) as well as serving as the BBB Foundation's Executive Director. Prior to the BBB, Dale enjoyed a successful career of nearly 23 years at FirstBank Holding Company.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Dale has a long history of community and non-profit involvement. Since 1985, Dale has served on advisory committees and boards for more than 40 philanthropic, community-oriented organizations including multiple Chambers of Commerce, educational institutions, Denver Botanic Gardens, the Aurora Housing Authority, Mile High United Way, the Aurora Public Schools Bond Accountability Committee, the YMCA, Hispanic Annual Salute, Commerce City Business and Professional Association, Commerce City Rotary and others. In 2016 Dale also created the Commerce City Leadership Program. The second class is currently being held.

Dale received his BS in Business Administration from Adams State University. He also completed the Pacific Coast Banking School graduate program at the University of Washington and the Center for Creative Leadership in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He and his wife Teri have two children: Addison and Ticen. Dale and Teri enjoy photography, travel and hanging with Addie and Ti.

The Adams 14 Education Foundation was formed in 1996 by a small group of concerned local businesspersons and education professionals to improve literacy among the students in the District 14 and to address significant K-12 Educational challenges. Their mission is to enhance the quality of education and provide expanded learning opportunities to foster the lifelong suc-

cess of Adams 14 students. Not only has he continued the process of getting scholarships for Adams City children, he has done a great job creating new partnerships for the foundation. This year the organization, with community and education partners, awarded over \$200,000.00 in scholarships. The ongoing goal is to remove the financial barriers of our graduating students so that all may continue their education after high school. It is our pleasure to give the Jean Klein Angel Award to Dale.

### **Russ Watterson (cont. from P.3)**

living selling farms, ranches and commercial properties.

In 1983 he became a broker with Moore and Company Commercial Division and became friends with Bill Moore, one of the finest gentlemen and most able real estate brokerage owners in Denver. Moore and Company Residential was the largest residential real estate broker in the Denver Area.

In 1984 Russ completed the General Development Plan for Northwood Village, a planned unit development of 480 acres in Adams County on the land, then 160 acres owned and 320 acres under contract for purchase from the Kallsens. It was called Northwood Village because the contract was to be consummated with Wood Brothers Homes and Russ as partners. The day before the closing Wood Brothers walked from the deal and Russ was left to either drop the contract and disappoint the Kallsens or close. He discussed the situation with The First National Bank of Westminster who was ready to do the financing with Wood Brothers and Russ. They agreed to close the loan with Russ alone.

Russ took the deal to Bill Moore. Bill and Russ agreed to create a limited partnership and bring in Limited Partners with Bill and Russ as the General Partners.

In 1985 Northwood Village Associates, Ltd., was formed with the very able assistance of Doug Scott, a highly ethical and honest associate of Rothgerber, Appel, Powers and Johnson, Moore and Company's attorney, who also brought several limited partners, including himself, into the partnership. Doug (now deceased) was an invaluable asset in all of the later dealings with Bob Gehler, Commerce City's also highly ethical and honest decade's long attorney.

In 1986 and early 1987 Watterson continued negotiations with South Adams County Water and Sanitation for water and sewer service where he first became acquainted with Larry Ford, the District Manager and Jean Klein, President of the Board of Directors. The costs associated with engineering and construction to extend the lines and

**Russ Watterson (cont. on page 13)**

6505 East 60th  
Avenue

Date: September 16, 2017

Time: 10 a.m.—2 p.m.



CCHS Members enter  
your car Free,  
Non-Members \$10.00 to  
enter your car,



Call Esther Hall for your  
reservation  
303-249-1930

*Commerce City Historical Society*

## 3RD ANNIVERSARY celebration



*We are seeking people who have classic or  
restored vehicles who would like to show  
their car. Awards will be presented to the  
favorite of the show. Please register by  
Wednesday, August 30, to reserve your spot  
or to reserve a table for your crafts!*

### Highlights

- Enter show at 10 a.m.
- Awards presented at 1:00 p.m.
- Hot dogs, brats, and sodas will be served
- New museum displays unveiled
- Prizes



*Preserving Commerce City History!*

## Suncor (continued from page 3)

In 2003, approximately 590 ConocoPhillips employees joined the Suncor Energy team when Suncor – a Canadian based company – acquired the former ConocoPhillips facilities, Suncor's Plants 1 and 3.

Just two years later in 2005, Suncor welcomed 140 new employees when it announced it would expand its Commerce City refining operation with the purchase of the former Valero refinery (Suncor's Plant 2), making it the first time in history that a single company operated the refining assets dotting either side of Brighton Boulevard.

Today, Suncor's Commerce City refinery is the only petroleum refinery in Colorado and the largest refinery in the Rocky Mountain region. It sits in a densely populated area surrounded by business and residential neighbors, railroad tracks and waterways. A state highway bisects the plant, and an interstate highway lies just outside the refinery's gates.

Since 2003 and 2005 when Suncor purchased its assets from ConocoPhillips and Valero, these assets have operated as one integrated refinery under the Suncor Energy banner. The refinery, producing approximately 100,000 barrels of oil per day, is a major supplier of gasoline and diesel fuel in Colorado and provides a significant supply of the jet fuel used at Denver International Airport. It is also the state's primary producer and supplier of paving-grade asphalt.

In 2006, the refinery completed Project Odyssey, a \$445-million project to enhance environmental performance and meet new U.S. fuel regulations. This upgrade also made it possible to process a wider range of crude oil types. Between 2008 and 2012, the refinery invested \$175 million for its Gasoline Benzene Reduction unit, which lowered benzene concentration in gasoline and enabled the refinery to meet environmental targets set by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Commerce City refinery, along with other U.S.-based Suncor businesses, is committed to building sustainable communities, and since 2003 has contributed millions of dollars to a variety of educational, environmental, and health and human service programs to benefit Colorado and Wyoming residents. Locally, Suncor provided \$1 million as a lead gift to Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver to fund the new Commerce City facility which opened in 2015. Many organizations came together to collaborate to build this club, including the City of Commerce City which donated the land. Suncor also recently provided a two-year, \$200,000 grant to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership to improve long-term sustainability of the greenway following the September 2013 floods. and regularly communicates with its Citizens Advisory Council, a community-based group of local citizens that has been in place since the facility was owned by Conoco. Its employees help invigorate the community by volunteering their time and talent at local schools and United Way agencies in the Denver metro area.

The refinery places a premium on safety and has been recognized for steps taken on its path of what the company calls "operational discipline". Suncor's refinery has improved its overall safety and environmental performance, and understands the responsibility it has for ensuring the safety of its people and the community.

The more than 400 employees at the Commerce City refinery are an integral part of the petroleum industry in Colorado and North America and in the local communities where they live, work and play.

## Past Jean Klein Angel Awards

At our first Lunch in 2010 we honored; Jean Klein, Larry Ford, Bob Hutchings, Al Krogh, and Lester Arnold.

In 2011 we honored; Joe Gilas, Hal Rarick, Harlow and Shirley Leeper, and The Commerce City Rotary Club.

In 2012 we honored; Mr. Leo Younger, Mr. Casey Hayes, and some of our Founding Fathers.

In 2013 we honored; Lou and Charlene Jaramillo, Barbara Jones and Norm and Janet Union

And our "First Responders Award" Harold Hubbell, Sr. and Richard Watts who lost their lives as first responders for our city.

In 2014 we honored; Senator Bob Martinez, Paskey Teto, the Teter Brothers, Kids First, the Commerce City Charter Delegates and

In 2015 we honored; Mrs. Reba Drotar, Mrs. Lois Kimmes, CCHS Board of Directors, and Mr. Robert Gehler

Our first "Business Award" in 2014 went To Hi-Lo Employees Corporation  
In 2015 we honored; Riggi Oil

In 2016 we honored: Younger Bros and Mitchell & Sons. Citizens of the Year were: Chuck Baker, Carlyle "Curly Edwards, L.C. Fulenwider, and Kevin Phillips.

Every year we take nominations. If there is someone you feel has profoundly and positively affected our history and community and / or a family member that you feel may deserve this award, please send in your nomination.

## OUT AND ABOUT

**Superintendent Parent Forum Awards**, May 25, 2017 held at Our Lady Mother of the Church.

**Memorial Day Parade**, Monday, May 29, 2017. Grand marshals were Robert Benzel, a veteran of the Korean War; and Vietnam Veterans Johnny Gallegos, Fernando Serna and Ernesto Vasquez.

**Beam Signing Ceremony** for the new recreation center. 112th and highway 2 Thursday, June 29, 2017

### LECTURE SERIES

Debra Bullock presented the Commerce City History as the first Lecture for the CCHS Lecture Series. Bob Hutchings presented the history of Fish Farming in Commerce City on Saturday, June 24.

### NEXT 3 LECTURES... JULY –

Hog Farming History in Commerce City

### AUGUST –

The Grange History

### SEPTEMBER –

The Fire Department History

### AUGUST

Aug. 10, **City Community Outreach**, Pioneer Park, 6 pm

Aug. 19, **Dottie Bakke Tea** – 1 pm – Call Dottie Bakke for tickets (303-288-9603)

Aug. 19, **Grange Lecture at the Rose Hill Grange** at Starts at 9 am, Lecture at 20 am, ends at 11:00 am – 4001 E. 68th Ave.

### SEPTEMBER

September 10, 2017 – **Central City Bus Trip** – See ticket

September 16, **CCHS Annual Celebration and Car Show** at the museum from 10-2pm. Cash prize will be given away at 1:00pm.



*Beam Signing Ceremony at 112th & Hwy. 2, new Recreation Center.*

## Commerce City Historical Society

### Application for Membership

	NAME: _____
	Address: _____ _____
	Phone Number: _____ home _____ cell _____
	E-Mail _____
	Business Name _____

### Annual Dues

***Please make checks payable to: Commerce City Historical Society,  
6505 E. 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado 80022***

Individual	\$10.00	_____ (per year)
Family	\$25.00	_____ (per year)
Business/Corporation	\$100.00	_____ (per year)
Life Membership	\$500.00	_____ (one time)
Senior Lifetime Membership (Age 65 Plus)	\$250.00	_____ (one time)

Are you a Veteran? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ What Branch? \_\_\_\_\_

DATE PAID \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to be notified of meetings and the Newsletter?

Email \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ mail \_\_\_\_\_

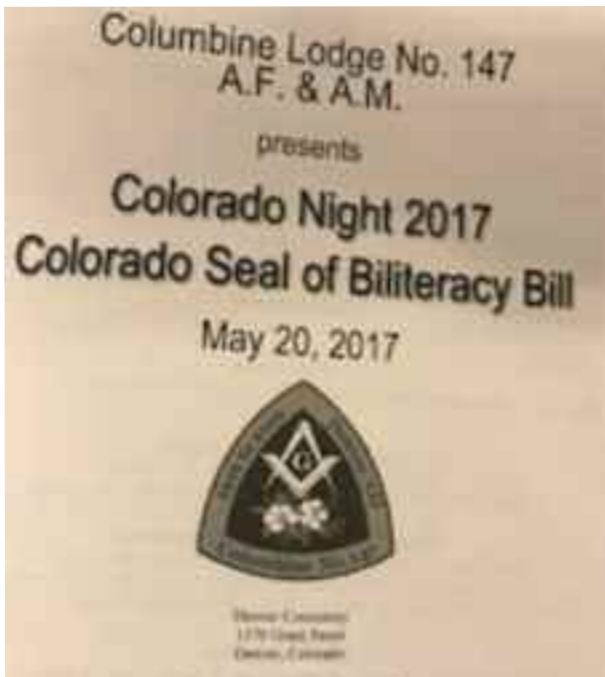
For questions please call 303-287-6747

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calls	<input type="checkbox"/> Working at Events
<input type="checkbox"/> Work at the Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Items

## Out N About



*Colorado Seal of Biliteracy Celebration, May 20 at the Colorado Night Gala at the Denver Consistory Building (1370 Grant Street). Shown are Rene` Bullock, Debra Bullock, Colorado State Representative Dominic Moreno and Kristi and Steve Douglas.*



*April 8, 2017 – Open house for Taco River in Derby! Located on Monaco Street just south of 72nd.*

**CCBPA Business Awards for 2016;** Business of the Year – Bimbo Bakery and Business Person of the Year – Tom Green, United Power. Congratulations!


### ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCHS would like to thank the Quality Community Foundation for our Coloring Book Distribution grant.

**Membership Meeting:**Commerce City Historical Society Membership meeting on Friday, July 21, 2017, at 6 PM at the Commerce City Historical Society.

## Free admission to the Museum

Get your tickets for Free Admission to the Commerce City Historical Society Museum. We will be collecting all tickets and we will be having a cash award drawing on September 16 during the 3rd Annual Anniversary Celebration. Tickets are available from Board Members or at the museum.

	NAME: _____
	ADDRESS: _____
	PHONE: _____
	EMAIL: _____
ENTER THIS TICKET FOR A CHANCE TO WIN \$150 PRIZE FOR THE CASH DRAWING ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2017	



# Out N About



Coloring book distribution April 12 and 13



Coloring book distribution, Central Elementary.

Reading Book Distribution at Kemp Elementary – May 4. Thank you to Michael Scanlon, Rene' Bullock and Crystal Elliott for delivering them to the third grade



Coloring Book Awards at the museum Saturday May 13, 2017



CCHS provides band for the Annual Memorial Day Parade



**Adams County Senior of the Year:** Susan Carabajal a member of the Commerce City Historical Society received an award from Adams County Colorado for Senior of the Year. Congratulations Susan!



CCHS Lecture Series for June 24, Bob Hutchings talking about the history of the Fish Farms in Commerce City

# In Memoriam



**Christine Mary Dominguez**, Commerce City, CO passed away June 25, 2017.

Christine was born on Aug. 21, 1924 in Alamosa, CO and has 5 children (preceded in death of oldest son Duaine Medina) survived by son John Medina, daughter Sylvia Medina, son Gary Medina (Joanie), son Christopher Medina, her brother Frank Valdez and sister Loyola Trujillo. Also has numerous grandchildren (18 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, and 9 great-great grandchildren) whom she loved very much.

Rosary and Mass held on Thurs., June 29 at 6:00 pm - Our Lady Mother of the Church, 6690 E 72nd Avenue, Commerce City (viewing at 5:00 pm).

Arrangements under the direction of Olinger Highland Mortuary & Cemetery, Thornton, CO.

**Frank Kraly**, born Sept. 24, 1931 in Lorain, Ohio, passed away June 12, 2017 in Denver, the city he loved. He discovered Denver during his military service at Lowry Air Force Base, and it was in Denver where he met his life-long dance partner, JoAnn, whom he married and raised five children. A graduate from the University of Denver, his career as a C.P.A. spanned nearly five decades. He loved Denver for its multi-cultural vibrancy, for the friendships he forged here, for the kindness of strangers in this city, for its jazz and blues venues, and for the panoramic sunsets along the Rocky Mountains.

Survived by JoAnn, his wife of 62 years; daughter Kimberly (Jerry) of Mt. Vernon, WA; daughter Kris (Devin) of Waterflow, NM; son Mick (Peggy and granddaughters Keshia and Masha) of Atyrau, Kazakhstan; daughter Stacie (Jeanette) of Juneau, AK; and daughter Sandie (grandson Wyatt and granddaughter Cassidy) of Middletown, MD. He is also survived by his sisters Mary Ann Lemley, Dorothy McGinty and Betty Turner and his brothers Tom Kraly and John Kraly along with many nieces, nephews and cousins. A private family service has been held. Donations in his memory can be made to KUVO, Frank's favorite radio station.

Frank was the accountant at South Adams County Water & Sanitation for a number of years.

**Linnea I. Gonzales**, 61, of Commerce City, passed away on May 29, 2017 in Aurora. She was born Dec. 26, 1955 in Moline, IL to Keith and Mae (Kruckenberg) Collier. She attended Adams City High School.

Linnea started working in automotive sales at Colorado Auto Auction at the age of 23. She later owned and operated two different car lots, both wholesale and retail lots; Colony Auto and JLC Auto Sales. She retired in 2002 and from that time enjoyed being a mother and grandmother. She was known for being open and straightforward and enjoyed her days living life her way!

Linnea is survived by her mother, Mae Collier of Henderson; two sons, Johnny (Cyndi) Gonzales of Aurora and Mark Gonzales of Commerce City; three brothers, Harry Collier of Henderson, John Ford Collier of Henderson and Joseph Collier of Commerce City; two sisters, Anita Roy of Thornton and Robin Collier of Boulder; three grandchildren, Jalen, Manny and Armani.

She is preceded in death by her father, Keith Collier and sister, Terry Vega.

Memorial Service held June 8, 2017 at 2:00pm at Tabor-Rice Funeral Home in Brighton.

Memorial Contributions can be made in Linnea's name to the Children's Hospital Foundation, 13123 East 16th Avenue, Box 045, Aurora, Colorado 80045.



**Ina Mae Pachan**, 88, 1928-2017

Ina Mae Pachan, longtime resident of Commerce City, CO, passed away at her home in Commerce City, CO on June 3, 2017. She is survived by her children: Ginger Morgan and Gerri Hokamp, of Fremont, NE; Jeanne Kingry of Commerce City, CO; and Randy Pachan of Cuthbert, GA; eight grandchildren and several great-grandchildren; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Ina Mae was born Oct. 20, 1928 in Fremont NE. She moved her family to Commerce City in 1962.

Her first job in Colorado was at Las Wigwam Weavers where she operated a loom. Ina Mae also worked for School District 14 in the Adams City High School cafeteria for several years. Her final job, prior to her retirement, was at Grif-fab Corporation in Commerce City.

After her retirement, Ina Mae volunteered at the Commerce City Food Bank for approximately 17 years.

Her ashes will be interred in the family plot in Fremont, NE in September.



**Cora Margaret West Charboneau**

Sept. 16, 1931 - Apr. 24, 2017  
Commerce City, Colorado

Cora M. Charboneau passed away Apr. 24, 2017 in Commerce City. She was born Sept. 16, 1931 in Hollister, MO to George and Lola (Holmes) Boling. She worked for and retired from Safeway. She is survived by her children Billie Haberhauer (Warrell Johnson) of Commerce City, CO; Betty West (Walter Schick) of Colorado Springs, CO; Mitch (Larney) West of Canton, TX; Johnny (Nuvia) Charboneau of Virginia Beach, VA; grandchildren Tana Isgar of Colorado Springs, CO; Yancy Beckel of Centennial, CO; Christina Martinez of Denver, CO; Rhodi Nixon of Tyler, TX; Kelly Phillips of Dallas, TX; Ruth Geis of Van, TX; Johnny Charboneau, Jr.; Brianna Charboneau; and Krystal Charboneau. Preceded in death by her first husband William West; second husband Richard Charboneau; sons Paul and Bobby West; granddaughter Kimberly Vigil; and great grandchildren Mandy Beckel and Jeremiah Isgar.

Visitation held Apr. 28, 2017; Funeral services immediately following at 1pm. Both at Olinger Highland Mortuary, 10201 Grant Street, Thornton, CO.

**Donald Eugene Behrent**, June 30, 1975 - April 27, 2017, Commerce City, Colorado

Donald Eugene Behrent, 41, passed away suddenly on April 27, 2017. He was born on June 30, 1975 in San Clemente, California to Gaylen and Leslie Behrent (Young).

He was preceded in death by his sister Valerie Kaye Behrent; Grandparents Bill and Phyllis Kersten; Grandparents Elmore and Bernice Behrent.

Survived by his 3 year-old daughter Makenzie Valerie Jean Behrent; Father Gaylen Behrent (Cathy); Mother Leslie Duffy (John); Numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins and Friends.

Memorial service will be held at Olinger Highland Mortuary, May 8, 2017 at 2pm.

**JoAnn Jeannette Hermanson**

Apr. 23, 1970 - April 27, 2017  
Commerce City, CO  
Arrangements under the direction of Olinger Highland Mortuary & Cemetery, Thornton, CO.



**Carmel Louise Ramos**, Oct. 28, 1928 - May 22, 2017, Commerce City, CO

Carmel was a resident of Commerce City, CO at the time of passing.

**William Gruenewald** passed away on Wed., June 14, 2017

William was a resident of Commerce City, Colorado at the time of passing.

# In Memoriam

## Allen Klein

May 4, 1925 - May 11, 2017

Allen Dale Klein was born in Sutton, NE to Alfred and Eva Klein, May 4, 1925. He was the youngest of three boys born into this hard working but poor farm family. As a child he witnessed crop failures from swarms of locusts, brutal hail storms and finally the dust bowl. The family made the heartbreaking decision to move from the farm to North Platte, NE when Allen was about 5 years old. The journey took 3 days and Alfred had to fix nearly 30 flat tires on the way. Just a few years later, they moved on to Ft Collins and Estes Park all the while Alfred took any work he could get in order to feed his hungry family. Sometimes he would get hired only if the boys would work too, without pay. They worked picking cherries and apples and sugar beets. This is most likely where Al developed his work ethic and penchant for punctuality. These two traits stayed with him in full force for all of his life.

Eventually the economy improved and Alfred moved the family to Denver where he found steady work and bought a house. Allen was in 11th grade at Wheat Ridge High School when WW II broke out. Both of his brothers were already off to war and Allen was not about to be left behind so at the young age of 17 he enlisted in the Navy. He spent time in the Pacific and the Philippines and was honorably discharged in March of 1946.

After he was discharged he returned to Denver. There on a warm summer evening at Lakeside Amusement Park he crossed paths with Jean Stallsmith, a beautiful young woman that he recognized as a neighbor from several years past. There began a most passionate and amazing love story that lasted for the rest of his life. Jean was a war widow with an adorable two year old daughter named Charlene Frances. Allen and Jean were married on November 2, 1946 and the three of them became a family. Allen loved Charlene and was honored to raise her for the father she had never known. The family grew with the birth of son Robert Allen and daughter Pamela Jean. In 1954 they moved into a new little home in Commerce City and there they found their "Home Town". Allen worked for Union Pacific Rail Road as a machinist and a few years later he joined Jean in the real estate business. He loved fixing up homes and selling them way before "flipping" was what it is today. Jean and Al owned and operated Jean's Realty on East 64th Avenue in Commerce City for many years. They were involved in all of the civic and social activities in the city and were well respected and liked.

Jean died in 2009 leaving Al alone for the first time in his life. In 2010 Jean's sister Dodie came to live with him and they became great companions. They were able to travel together, laugh a lot and just keep each other company. Al spent the last four months of his life in the Inglenook Retirement Community in Brighton where he was well taken care of. He loved it there and made many friends even in his short stay.

Al left behind 3 children: Charlene (Dave) Busby, Robert (Cindy) Klein and Pamela (Jim) Meier, 12 Grandchildren, Michael (Bonnie) Pinkerton, Cindy (Kevin) Smith, Kristy (Donnie Shepard) Klein, Jason Klein, Tiffany (Ken) Franc, Justin Knoll, Kate Hurst, Patrick Meier, Sam (Katy) Meier, Dan (Alicia) Meier, Cindy (Dennis Padilla) Busby, Christine Busby, 16 Great-Grandchildren, Amanda, Joey, Sonjia, Zachery, Doreen, Dennis, Andrew, Lilly and Samuel and 2 great-great grandchildren: Desiree and David

Allen Dale Klein died on May 11, 2017 in Brighton, CO of natural causes from a life well lived. He will be missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Commerce City Historical Society, 6505 East 60th Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado 80022

Arrangements under the direction of Olinger Highland Mortuary & Cemetery, Thornton, CO.



## Stella Estrada

Dec. 23, 1939 - Apr. 11, 2017

Stella Estrada, 77 of Commerce City, Co was called home on Apr. 11, 2017 in Denver, CO. She was born Dec. 23, 1939 in Walsenberg, Co to Juan and Juanita Carrillo. She is survived by her daughter Phyllis Estrada (Ed), grandchildren; Christina (Brian), Amber, Joseph (Melissa), Christopher, and Hope (Atlas). 8 great-grandchildren; brother's and sisters, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Gabriel B. Estrada, and her sons David and Michael Estrada. Stella was an active member with Our Lady Mother of the Church. She enjoyed her family so very much, she loved to cook for everyone. Stella was known to be the kindest, sweetest, angel with a heart of gold who opened her home to whoever walked in.

Arrangements under the direction of Olinger Highland Mortuary & Cemetery, Thornton, CO.

## Linda Montoya, Commerce

City. Born Mar. 25, 1932, Big Springs, NE. She went home to be with her Lord on June 12, 2017.

Preceded in death by her parents Emidio and Domatila Guerrero, her brother Phillip Guerrero, her sisters Julia Benevidas and Mary DeVargas, her beloved husband Pete Salaz (1998), and her loving second husband Dave Montoya (2016).

Survived by her four children Darrell (Maureen), Debby, Victor, and Eli (Elizabeth), her stepchildren Linda (Jerry), Roger (Jeanette), Molly, Tony (Donna), Phil (Anna), and David Jr. (Tonya), numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and gr. great-grandchildren, all of whom were her pride and joy.

Visitation held June 19 at Olinger Highland Chapel, 10201 Grant Street, Thornton. Funeral services Tues., June 20 1 Harvest Church, Federal Heights.

## ClaraBell Weickum, 91 yrs

Sept. 19, 1925 - Apr. 22, 2017, Commerce City



We sadly announce her passing on Apr. 22, 2017, Born on Sept. 19, 1925, in Loveland, CO. She married Oscar Weickum (deceased) on June 25, 1944. They had three children, Annette (Weickum) Novak, Ronald Weickum

(deceased) and James Weickum. She has nine granddaughters, one grandson, nineteen great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren.

ClaraBell graduated from Johnstown High School in 1944. She is the only one who graduated out of her eight siblings. Oscar and ClaraBell built their home in Commerce City. They traveled to all fifty states and a number of countries with family and special friends. She enjoyed many hobbies that included camping, boating, and snowmobiling. She was a hard worker and started at a young age. Clara had many jobs from waitressing to the first lady bus driver in Adams County School District #14. ClaraBell and Oscar owned the Plaza Coin-Op Cleaners where she worked for a number of years. With her many talents, she loved sewing which was shown through her amazing clothing and blankets. She loved ceramics and made a number of masterpieces, from Santa Claus to porcelain dolls. She also crocheted many beautiful afghan's. Many were blessed to receive these priceless treasures.

ClaraBell's greatest love and passion was her family who meant the world to her. She was a devoted and loving "Grandma" to many. Her charisma and charming wit kept everyone in "stitches". She was deeply loved and will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Viewing held Tues., May 2, 2017, at Olinger Highland Cemetery - 10201 North Grant, Thornton, CO 80229. A closed casket service with Pastor Kristi K. Beebe officiating. Committal Service will follow at Fort Logan National Cemetery (Staging Area "B"). The family hosted a celebration of life at South Adams County Fire Station #1 - 4711 E. 69th Ave., 2:00 p.m.

## Lois Ann Reinhardt was born Aug.

1, 1933 in Denver. She passed on June 30, 2017.

She grew up on a farm in Commerce City, where she lived most of her life. Her passion growing up were her horses Peggy and Betty Boop.

Lois graduated from ACHS in 1951. She worked for Tri County Health Department for 27 years.

Her pride and joy were grandchildren Audra Lea and Derek. Loves of her life were her great grandchildren D'Angelo, Giovanni, Allister, Isabella, Alexander, KyLea and Oriana.

Survived by her son Kenneth Reinhardt, his wife Kelly, granddaughter Audra Lea, seven-great grand children, as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and others who loved her. Preceded in death by parents Gilbert and Mabel Worley (Anderson), her brother Don Worley and her grandson Derek Reinhardt.

Arrangements under the direction of Olinger Highland Mortuary & Cemetery, Thornton, CO.

# In Memoriam

## Remembering Carroll Harr

Teaching and Administration

Carroll Harr died

Apr. 6, 2017 at the age of 71.

Born in Yuma, CO, Carroll held degrees and certificates from Northern Colorado University and Colorado State University. He met Dolores in college, his soulmate of 48 years; they were blessed with a son and daughter and four grandchildren.



Carroll Harr spent most of his career at Adams City High School (ACHS) in Adams County District 14 because he loved the students and his co-workers. His first year, however, was at Lone Star High School (his alma mater) in north-eastern Colorado where he taught whatever subjects were needed in this small rural school—including earth science! His heart was always in vocational education, however. He believed that students must learn skills that enable them to live as productive and contributing citizens. The most expensive college education is not for everyone; but everyone can learn skills to be employable and support a good quality of life. He stressed that mastery of reading, writing, and math was just as important to the vocation education student as to the college-bound. After teaching at Kearney Junior High from 1969-1971, he transferred to the high school. For Carroll, these were rewarding and exciting times in education. He soon became the Cooperative Office Education Coordinator. He was active in the Colorado Vocational Education Association and was exposed to new, innovative ideas. An Alpha Micro Operative System (AMOS) with six terminals was purchased for the Business Department, and Carroll learned and taught computerized accounting, BASIC programming, and word processing and data base management which gave students valuable skills for the coming computer world that we live in today. He also sponsored the Future Business Leaders of America club. He enjoyed preparing students to compete at the state level and taking them to the State FBLA Convention at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs. He particularly loved watching students get excited while practicing on a parliamentary procedure team.

As vocational education programs grew at ACHS, Carroll became Assistant Vocational Director (while still teaching accounting and data processing), and soon moved to Assistant Principal at ACHS. In addition to all other duties of an assistant principal, he implemented the Med Prep program, which trains Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), obtained a Federal grant for a School-to-Career initiative emphasizing career education from elementary to high school, and lead a focus on applied math. Applied math requires math and vocational teachers to coordinate their teaching as students use concepts learned in math classes to complete workforce

tasks. They see how math skills learned are not isolated but are essential in everyday life and vocations. He was the Adams City High School Vocational Director and Assistant Principal from 1988-1997. Professional Leadership

Carroll contributed to his profession by holding leadership positions over the years in the following organizations: Colorado Vocational Education (President and Treasurer), Colorado Business Educators Association (President), National Business Education Association (Secretary), and Delta Pi Epsilon (Treasurer). He also served on the following state and national committees: North Central Teach Prep Executive Committee, CCCOES State Plan Committee, Director of Operations Committee (NBEA Conference, in Denver, 1988), NCA Review Committee, Adams County School District 14 Odyssey of the Mind coach, and National Business Education Association Computer Literacy Taskforce.

### Retirement

Carroll retired in spring 1997, but was not ready to quit education. He returned to Adams 14 in 1998 to administer the last year of the 5-year School-to-Career grant. He was the Interim Principal of ACHS for spring semester 2000. Ever the teacher, he taught accounting at Colorado Lutheran High in the fall of 2000. Within the year, he accepted the job of Interim Executive Director of the Colorado Lutheran High School Association and stayed at Lutheran until the spring of 2004.

Thinking that he had finally retired, another call came from ACHS. This time the request was to manage the graduation ceremony, which he did for several subsequent years.

Building the new high school gave Carroll yet another opportunity to use his experience in vocational education. Serving as a consultant, he worked to help design the new high school to include a Culinary Arts Program, Technical Theater, with plans for Process Management, Renewable energy, and Wildlife Management (only logical when students can walk to the Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center for educational purposes.) He worked with the local CTE Advisory Council and local partners including Front Range Community College, Community College of Denver, and Community College of Aurora, Red Rocks Community College, Colorado State University, Metropolitan State College and Johnson and Wales University to assure that these programs articulated somewhere and that students have options after high school. Many of these new partnerships did not develop and are not in existence today; however, Carroll demonstrated the vision of a leader whose sincere desire it was to better prepare students to function and be successful in this ever-increasingly complex world of work, not to mention to excite them to have fun learning.

### Church and Community Involvement

Most would agree that Carroll "walked in the ways of the Lord." He placed God first in his life and the Lutheran Church and community was very important as he lived out his faith. He was a member of Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Commerce City for 48 years during which time he held every office. He was also a member of the board of directors of the Colorado Lutheran High School Association from 1990-2000, serving as Chairman of the Board from 1995-2000.

Carroll believed that the quality of the schools played a very large part in improving a community;

thus, most of his time and efforts were spent where he could have the most impact—Commerce City's schools. However, he did enjoy serving on Commerce City's Board of Adjustment from 2006 until his death.

Through Carroll's love of learning and desire to serve, he had an impact on many lives. He is missed.

**Edward John Muhr** passed away on July 1, 2017. A memorial service held July 11, 2017 at Drinkwine Mortuary, Littleton, Colorado with a reception following at Racoon Creek Golf Course in the tent.

Born Mar. 3, 1939 in St. Louis, MO to John and Marie Muhr. Preceded in death by his parents.

Ed graduated from Adams City High School in 1957, from CU Boulder 1961 with a Business Degree, and from DU law school December 1963. He was admitted to the Colorado State Bar in 1964 and to the California State Bar in 1966. During this time, he also fulfilled his military service in the Air National Guard.

Ed and Ruth met in Wheat Ridge, Colorado in 1966 and were married in Lincoln, Nebraska on May 20, 1967. They recently celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Survived by four sons: John (Cheryl), Mike (Susan), Jeff (Wenfang) and Chris (Julie), and seven grandchildren Rachel, Amanda, Bryan, Jeremy, Sarah, Tyler, Amy Muhr, and a host of friends.

After serving as a deputy DA in Adams County, and work with Legal Aid, Ed practiced law as a sole practitioner until 1996.

Together with his wife, Ruth, he built the family real estate business (including the Crestline Motel) which is now managed by Tangent Corporation. The business entities are currently owned and managed by their four sons.

Ed had many interests; travel, boxing, boogie woogie music, football, vibrant discussions and "trains, planes and automobiles." He had once flown himself, and relived that experience again when Jeff got his pilot's license. He and all four sons and a daughter-in-law made it to the Superbowl in 2016, completing 18 years of trips he and Chris made to visit all the NFL stadiums. That stadium was the last one on their list for the culmination of that journey. The family wishes to express their love to all of Ed's friends, classmates and neighbors who have enjoyed his rare wit and humor over the years.

Memorial donations may be made to Haven Ministries, Healing Warriors Program (not to be confused with Wounded Warriors), LifeSpark cancer resources, or the charity of your choice.



## Russ Watterson (cont. from

provide water storage and wastewater lines and treatment were discussed and negotiations began in earnest with a draft Utility Agreement first circulated by the SACWSD on Feb 6, 1987. Later in that year a "Will Serve" Utility Agreement was reached.

The real beginning of serious Northern Range development was after the "Record of Decision" concerning the final disposition of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal which included the settlement with South Adams which provided the necessary funds for expansion of the district's infrastructure, including facilities, pipelines and 4,000 additional acre feet of water. This final settlement, including the creation of the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Refuge dispelled the image of the City and its water as polluted. The Watterson partnerships later conveyed all of the water rights to South Adams as required by the agreement for service.

On July 6, 1987, Robert Williams, Secretary Treasurer of Moore and Company, on behalf of our limited partnership Northwood Village Associates, Ltd and David Busby, Mayor of Commerce City signed the agreement annexing 308.53 acres to Commerce City.

At the same time 120th and Buckley Associates, Ltd., a limited partnership formed between Russ Watterson and John Fair as General Partners, formed in 1986 when it purchased 156 acres in the North East quarter section of the Kallsen's former land was also annexed to the City.

These two properties were the first properties to annex to Commerce City within what is now known as the "Northern Range" of Commerce City. Watterson and Fair later annexed 107 acres owned by their 120th and Chambers partnership to the city.

These properties became known as The Villages at Buffalo Run West and The Villages at Buffalo Run East. These annexations led the way for the later contiguous annexations, including Reunion, and other properties comprising over 5,000 acres.

The Buffalo Run Neighborhoods consist of...

- The Villages West - 2001
- The Villages East - 2002
- Fairways at Buffalo Run - 2003
- Fairway Villages - 2003
- The Greens Townhomes and Patio Homes - 2003
- Coming in 2017-2018
- The Estates at Buffalo Run
- The Hills at Buffalo Run
- New 7-11
- Buckley Parkway and High Plains Parkway

As part of his activity he served on the transportation and infrastructure committees during the ramp up in 1988 to the approval votes in both Adams County and Denver to decide whether to allow Denver to annex into Adams County and whether Denver citizens would allow the Airport Enterprise to issue bonds to build the airport and pay for it with projected revenues.

In 1989 Russ became Chairman of the Tower Road, Pena Blvd. Interchange Committee of the Denver North Chamber. The committee was charged to negotiate between Commerce City, Denver's adjacent land owners in the Denver Gateway and also the area north of Pena, to facilitate financing and construction of the East and West ramps of the overpass to create an interchange rather than simply an overpass, which Denver declined to build with airport money.

Commerce City ultimately provided the money for the project and Doug Scott drafted the negoti-

ated agreement.

After over 5 years the agreement was signed by David Busby, Mayor of Commerce City and the Landowners in April of 1994.

In 1991, another Watterson and Fair limited partnership annexed 320 acres at 120th and Trussville Road, the northern entrance to DIA.

The Villages at Buffalo Run, with which Commerce City residents will be most familiar, currently has over 1,000 houses within its community, with 700 more under development and to be built in the next 3 years.

In 1992 Russ Watterson and his partner John Fair, a former collegiate golfer at the University of Colorado, and a member at Castle Pines Golf Club, began discussing ways in which to elevate the image of their combined properties on 120th Avenue and the overall prospects of Commerce City's Northern Range expansion, (approximately 180 acres). Watterson, Fair, and Fulenwider were involved in the planning and ultimately a deal was struck with the able assistance of Bob Gehler, Doug Scott and Fulenwider's counsel in which, on November 2, 1994 Northwood Village Associates and 120th and Buckley Associates contributed 110 acres to the Golf Course Enterprise of the city and Fulenwider contributed 90 with a covenant that the City's enterprise would build the course, to be known as The Buffalo Run Golf Course, at no further expense to the contributors. The golf course was completed in 1996 and commenced play in 1997.

In 1993 Russ Watterson was, for many years, quite involved with the Metro North Chamber of Commerce, eventually becoming its Chairman of the Board and a member of the board of Adams County Economic Development that same year.

Two of the Villages at Buffalo Run partnerships later dedicated 14 acres for Stampede Park which was built in 2003 and an additional 9 acres for the new park now at 115th Ave and Chambers Road and a 5 acre school site along the golf course adjoining the 2016 completed park, at the same 115th location.

Overall the Villages at Buffalo Run partnerships dedicated 138 of their 561 acres, or 24.6% of their land plus right of way, for public purposes.

Over the last 18 years the planning, platting and development processing for the Buffalo Lands partners have been ably and professionally managed by our consultants Mark Bush of Concord Partners and also Charlie Foster of Foster Consulting. (Full story on file at the CCHS Museum on 6505 E. 60th Ave.)

It is because of this vision and dedication we are honoring Russ today.

## Commerce City Ace

### Hardware (Continued from page 1)

the War Department evolved in Jerry starting Surplus Supply Company selling war surplus at first on Kalamath Street in Denver and then moving to Commerce City, at 6900 Eudora Drive, in 1947. Early residents may remember the store as Surplus Supply Company selling war surplus. The original building that is still used on the property today started with four Quonset huts that are WWII surplus.

As the war surplus dried up, Jerry turned to selling hardware, upholstery and even woman's clothing for a while. Through the years the company expanded and ditched the used products to selling only new hardware, tools, plumbing, lawn and garden and men's work clothing. Jerry affiliated with Coast to Coast Hardware in the 1960s and then joined ACE Hardware in 1972. The name of the store changed in about 2000 from Surplus Supply Company to Commerce City Ace Hardware because of the confusion over new merchandise being sold not surplus or used items. The store is still located at 6900 Eudora Street. Only new merchandise being sold not surplus or used items.

Jerry had three daughters who all worked in the store during vacations and after school while growing up in high school and college. When Jerry was 75 years old and semi-retired each of the daughters took a turn overseeing the general managers of the store. In 1995 when Jerry died at 90 years old, Carole Auer Woodbury and husband, Bob, bought out the other two sisters.

Bob was a mining engineer graduate of Colorado School of Mines and Carole was a computer programmer and real estate broker. They lived all over the United States wherever his mining career took them. Starting in 1995 Carole commuted to Colorado from San Francisco to oversee the store manager. In 2002 Bob and Carole moved back to Colorado and Carole stepped in to run the store fulltime as the general manager. Bob retired from the mining industry and became the commercial sales manager for the store.

Bob and Carole have three daughters. In 2015, the business was sold to the third generation. Their youngest daughter, Tracy, and her husband, Tim Zaleski, will be moving to the area to take over running the business in July. Carole and Bob will still be involved helping with special purchasing and bid work.

The store has over 25,000 square feet of everything you can imagine dealing with a wide variety of manufacturers and dealers directly in addition to ACE warehouse products. Over sixty percent of the customers served are commercial businesses and government agencies. Ace Hardware stores are a co-op not a franchise and each Ace store is individually owned holding ownership in the national ACE corporate company. The Rocky Mountain ACE Dealer Association has 53 individual owned ACE stores who plan advertising, set up professional classes and discuss all aspects of improving their retail businesses.

Jerry Auer felt it was important to give back to the community and the company has continued his philosophy. A yearly \$500 scholarship is set up in his name for an Adams County High School graduating senior each year based on their community service commitment. The store also has a policy that any time an Adams County, Commerce City nonprofit calls for assistance, they will receive a donation. The company also donates directly to the schools. Any unsold merchandise is donated to the Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity. All Ace stores are a big supporter of children's hospitals through their national CMN Foundation.

The Auer-Woodbury family has operated Commerce City Ace Hardware on Eudora Drive for 70 years.

## CCHS appreciates our business members!

**MADISON & COMPANY**  
PROPERTIES, LTD.



**PAM MEIER**  
BROKER ASSOCIATE

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7280 Monaco St. 303-286-3982

**MAGNOLIA  
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7887 E. 60th Avenue  
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Commerce  
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WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT**

6595 E. 70th Avenue  
303-288-2646



Adams 14 Education Foundation

**La Casa del Rey**



7035 E. 72nd Ave  
Commerce City 80022  
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## CCHA appreciates our business members



**THE SUPPLY PLACE**

**Commerce City Ace Hardware**

P.O. Box 1006  
6900 Eudora Dr.  
Commerce City, CO 80022  
Ph: (303) 288-6641  
Fax: (303) 288-6080

Tim Zaleski  
President  
Email: cc2509@cc-acehardware.com

contaminated the groundwater. This caused major crop damage and contamination on the farm at 110th & Havana. All canned fruits and vegetables had to be destroyed. A lawsuit was filed against the Army and the RMA and a settlement was reached. During WWII Pinkney and Benton grew hemp for the Army.

Benton joined the Army and received a medical discharge. He married Louise (Sally) Windler and they had two boys Glen and Lyle. Pinkney died in 1949 leaving Benton to farm alone. Benton not only sold Pioneer seed he also sold Lundell and other shortline farm equipment. Benton served on several local boards including Union Rural Electric (now United Power), Farmers Marketing and the Burlington and Wellington ditch boards. Benton died in 1964 from brain cancer. Kathryn leased out the farm until her passing in 1973. Louise took over the Pioneer sales and served as President of the local PTA board, was a cooking 4-H leader for many years and was a member of a local Home Demonstration Club. She did all this while raising 2 children. Glen and Lyle went to school in 27J, and were both 4-H members until 18 years of age.

Glen (Pink) Murray married Patricia Badding in 1969 while in college at C.S.U. Glen received a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Agronomy while at C.S.U. Glen and Patty had two boys Byron & Harvey who

were also

4-H members for 10 years. Glen began farming in 1976 and began selling shortline farm equipment, irrigation equipment and took over the Pioneer sales when Sally retired. Glen served on the Adams County FHA committee, the Burlington and Wellington Ditch Boards, Colorado Corn Growers and was President of the Colorado Corn Administration Committee. He received the Governor's appointment to the Colorado Ag Commission where he served for 14 years. Glen also served on the South Adams Water & Sanitation Board for 8 years. Patty had her own CPA practice in Brighton for over 31 years. Her community service included being on the Brighton Chamber Board, Brighton Economic Development Board, a 4-H leader for over 15 years, served many years on the Adams County Fair Board and as President in 1985, over 30 years on the Platte Valley Foundation Board and appointed to the Platte Valley Hospital Board in 2016.

Patty was also appointed by the Governor to the Ag Development Authority for 13 years and to the Colorado State Fair Board for 4 years.

Lyle attended College at NJC, Laramie and graduated from C.S.U. He began farming with Glen in 1980. Lyle served on the Adams County Weed Advisory Board. Lyle married Carmen Paneitz and they have two children Benton and Nicole. Lyle and Carmen were 4-H leaders and Benton and Nicole participate in 4-H. Benton will graduate from

Brighton High School in May and will join the Army in August. Nicole is graduating from Zion Lutheran School in Brighton and will attend Prospect Ridge Academy for high school.

From 2001-2007 the Murray's engaged in Agri-Tourism on the farm by having a corn maze and a haunted house. During these years a percentage of each year's profits were donated to several charities including Platte Valley Medical Center Foundation, Bonfils Blood Center, Boys & Girls Club and others.

Glen and Lyle now farm in excess of 1,000 acres growing corn, wheat and alfalfa. In 2009 the farm was forced annexed to Commerce City. The Murray Farm will receive the Centennial Farm award at the Colorado State Fair on August 25, 2017.

It is our honor to give this 100 year business award to Murray Farms.

**Mardi Gras Casino Bus Trip**



**Commerce City Historical Society**  
**Leaving the Museum at 1:00 PM**

Preserving Commerce City History  
Esther Hall—303-249-1930  
Bus Ticket - \$10

**Sunday**  
**Sept. 10, 2017**



## South Adams County Fire Department History



### South Adams County Volunteer Fire Department grows for 75 years

February 9, 1942, the South Adams County Volunteer Fire Department was formed. The department was an outgrowth of a local civil defense group resulting from World War II. The primary funding for the volunteers up until 1952 was through fundraising.

In 1952 the South Adams County Fire District was formed with a ½ mill tax levy.

In 1942 the volunteers responded to 69 calls with ten volunteers. In 2016 the department responded to 7842 calls with a partial paid fire department. In the beginning, the Fire Department protected 26 square miles. Today the fire department protects approximately 76 square miles of residential, commercial, industrial and open lands. The South Adams County Fire Prevention Bureau was established in 1971 with 1 fire inspector.

For Ambulance Service the Fire Department contracts with Northglenn Ambulance Inc.

After 69 years operating as a Volunteer Fire Department the fire district board decided in September of 2011, that a full-time fire fighting force was essential to the community.

In 2013 the South Adams County Volunteer Fire Department changed their name to South Adams County Fire Fighters Association. The 501c3 was transferred to SACFFA due to the department becoming a partial paid department. Station #1 is currently owned and operated by the association.

In 1942 the department started with one fire station. Today there are eight fire stations, two maintenance facilities, a new administration building

(opening July 8, 2017) and one training academy.

Today, as of June 2017, the department has 59 full-time paid staff members including fire fighters, officers and support staff supporting four full-time operational fire stations (Station #3, Station #4, Station #7 and Station #8).

Over 22 volunteers integrate with the on-duty crews to increase the response capabilities.

For the detailed history visit the new fire department headquarters located at 6050 Syracuse Street.



*Bob Hutchings organizing the history of the Fire Department before the opening (on Saturday July 8 at 9am) of the new administration building located at 6050 Syracuse*



*Fire Station No. 1 on E. 69th with their early fire fighting equipment.*

***Preserving the history of Commerce City because history matters***