

# From Time to Time

A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society

Jan - Mar 2017

Vol 8, Issue 1

## Volunteers needed

The CCHS is in need of Museum Volunteers for Thursdays from 10am - 2pm and on Fridays, same time.

## www.cchistoric.com

The Commerce City Historical Society is getting a new website: Phoenix Jackson with Phoenix Affect is working with the board to get the website up and running. Stay tuned.

## 53rd Annual Memorial Day Parade

Commerce City celebrates Memorial Day by sponsoring the largest Parade in the state of Colorado. Starts at 10 am at 64th and Olive, goes west to Holly, south to 62nd, then right to Parkway Drive and ends at the Commerce City Recreation Center around noon.

## Mother's Day

Spend time with your mother on Mother's Day or better yet, cook for her. She would appreciate and



## COMMERCE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## FROM TIME TO TIME LUNCHEON



12:30-3:30 pm

At the Yellow Rose  
Event Center

6490 E. 72nd Place



Cost \$25 Contact Debra Bullock

for tickets—303-946-3426

Jean Klein Angel Awards:

Ace Hardware, Murray Farms, Suncor Energy

Loretta Garcia, Dale Mingilton, Russ Waterson

## Sunday May 7



Congratulations to SACFD for attaining the ISO2 rating for the fire department. More on page 3.



## Museum hours

Tuesdays: 10am-2 pm

Saturdays: 10 am - 2 pm

Museum address: 6505 E. 60th Ave

*Preserving the history of Commerce City because history matters*



Thelma Cole makes sure she gets all of her money!



Hester Bonnell wins!



Thelma, enjoy all that money"



**Annual CCHS business meeting,**  
*Marilyn Krause (left) tells us about Latorins, an early business in Derby. Marilyn with her dad and brother Larry Erickson started the business in the 60s and closed in 2000. They sold TVs, appliances and furniture and repaired appliances as well.*

The meeting was held at the Museum on Mar. 17, 2017. Nineteen were present. President Esther thanked the volunteers. The museum is now open 10am-2pm, Mon.-Sat. Contact Esther or Debra if you can volunteer.

## ***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  
Reba Drotar, Historian, 303.921.1972***

### ***ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS***

***JoAnn Stevenson, Casey Hayes, Janet Union, Stephen Kreutzer,  
Thelma Cole***

## **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.

A big thank you to all the people who supported our bus trip fundraiser to the mountains on Sunday March 12, 2017. We had a great time. Hester Bonnell and Thelma Cole were the big winners.

## **Commerce City Historical Society**

Twitter: cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com  
Facebook: Commerce City Historical Society  
Website: cchistoric.com  
Email: cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com  
Address" 6505 East 60th Avenue,  
Commerce City, CO 80022  
Phone: 303-288-2590

## **Museum Donations**

Jan - Mar. 2017 - \$148.66

## **Museum Visitors**

Jan. - 48, Feb. - 30 and Mar. - 45  
Rene Bullock` gave a history tour to the Commerce City Youth Commission on Wed., Mar. 29, 2017. *Thank you Rene`.*

## **Charter Members:**

Joy Bishop	Sean Ford
Hester Bonnell	Esther Hall
Debra Bullock	Bob Hutchings
Rene' Bullock	Dorothy Hutchings
Thelma Cole	Gene Leffel
Cindy Comstock	David Lutter
Gary Comstock	Dustin McIntyre
Kristi Douglas	Loretta Petty
Steve Douglas	Don Sater
Gary Drotar	JoAnn Stevenson
Reba Drotar	Dick Stevenson
Samantha Ford	Janet Union
	Norm Union
	June Younger
	Troy Younger

## **New Members - Jan. - Mar. 2017**

Grace Tochiara  
Laura Jones  
Betty Matthews  
Ken and Maria Koger

## ***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***

## **Upcoming activities**

Coloring book distribution is Apr. 12 & 13.  
Time to Time Luncheon is May 7 at the Yellow Rose. Tickets are \$25 this year. The CCHS will participate in the Memorial Day Parade on May 29. The CCHS is hoping to have a tea in mid-summer.

Debra gave a Year End Review Power Point.





## ISO RATING- 2016 (Insurance Services Organization)

During the year 2016, the fire department requested a survey from ISO for a periodic upgrade. In December the results were received with a Class 2 rating. The ISO rating is based on three components:

1. The community's emergency communications capabilities, including 911 telephone systems, adequacy of telephone lines, operator supervision and staffing and dispatching systems.
2. The quality of the fire department, including adequacy of equipment, sufficiency of staffing, level of training and geographic distribution of fire companies.
3. The infrastructure of the water system meets ISO requirements for fire protection.

- South Adams County Fire Department is now one of 1,243 fire departments (out of nearly 49,000) in the United States with a Class 2 rating.

- This new ISO rating means quicker response times, better service and probable insurance savings for residents, businesses and industries within the fire protection boundaries.

Mention the new ISO Rating to your insurance company - they may give you a discount on your insurance.

See plaque on page 1.



**Apr. 12 & 13:** Coloring Book Distribution

**May 4 & 5:** Reading Book Distribution

**Sun., May 7:** From Time to Time Luncheon at the Yellow Rose Event Center

**Sat., May 13:** History Coloring Book Contest awards at the Museum

**May 27:** Commerce City Historical Society - LECTURE SERIES - 1pm


Commerce City History by Debra Bullock at the Commerce City Heritage and Culture Center.

**May 29:** Memorial Day Parade

**June 8:** Neighborhood Outreach at Fronterra Park

## 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 giving a cash award drawing in September at our yearly museum anniversary. Tickets are available from Board Members or at the museum.

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



## Out N About



*New Recreation Center*



*Dion's Pizza just opened at 104th & Chambers*



*Debra Bullock enjoys the bus trip.*



*The new sign, where the triangle comes together just south of Fairfax and E. 72nd (Fairfax and Grae) represents both the American Legion Post 151 and Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 4444. The sign was designed by Victoria Rodriguez of the American Legion Auxilliary and was installed in 2015. If you look closely, you can see the insignias of the five branches of the Military. Great work! We appreciate.*



*Joint Chambers Meeting held at Buffalo Run on Feb. 8, 2017.*

### Meeting notice

The next meeting for the Commerce City Historical Society is Friday, May 19 at the Museum, 6505 E. 60th Avenue.

We will see you there! Meeting starts at 6 pm.



*Construction of Boys & Girls Club ball field is nearly complete.*



*L-R: Sheila Harris, Esther Hall, and Thelma Cole visit Joann Hardt (shown) and Al Klein.*



## In Memoriam

### Billy Birdsell, June 25, 1957-Mar. 4, 2017

Billy Birdsell was a Colorado native who was born in Denver. He lived in Commerce City for 35 years, then moved to Thornton.

ACHS graduate in 1975. He worked as a custodian in several school districts and in his spare time he loved stock car racing.

Survived by older brother Mike Birdsell and an Uncle Bob Harpin and Aunt Bert Harpin.



### Frederick Hanson, 96

Sept. 8, 1920 - Jan. 22, 2017

Fred was married to Alice. He was the father of Sharon, Steve (Betty), Bruce (Aeryn), and Brian (Sandy); grandfather of eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Mr. Hanson spent many years with Adams-14. In his early years, he was a coach and later the principal at Hanson Elementary. The school was renamed from Oneida Elementary.



### Denise L. VanMetre, 62

Feb. 17, 1955 - Apr. 8, 2017

Denise Lorraine VanMetre, age 62 of Commerce City, CO, passed away. She was born to Bob and Donna Robbins on Feb. 17, 1955.

Denise attended Central Elementary, Kearney Middle School and Adams City High School, graduating in 1973.

Family, friends, cooking and going to sporting events were Denise's passion and delight. She was a long-time member of the Tuesday Night Ladies Bowling league in which she also served as the league secretary. An avid sports fan, she attended as many Colorado Mammoth, Denver Broncos and Colorado Rockies games as she possibly could.

Denise worked for Adams-14 for 31 years. She started as the secretary at ACHS and later moving to Lester Arnold High School. She retired in June of 2011. Denise is survived by her parents, Bob and Donna Robbins, and her daughter, Alicia. She was preceded in death by her brother Michael. She also leaves behind numerous loving relatives and friends.

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

## Out N About

City of Commerce City and CCBPA at the Business Appreciation Rewards Breakfast on Mar. 2 honored seven local businesses at the ninth annual event held at the Yellow Rose Event Center. Awards were given for Business on the Move: Asahi Food Inc., Birko



Corporation, Jalisco International Inc., and Sas-hco, Inc.

Entrepreneurial Spirit Award: Ruth Tsehave

Economic Development Award for Leadership: United Power. Inc.

Business of the Year Award: Ardent Mills



Crowd picture of the Economic Development breakfast.



Tower Road construction

### E. Rebecca Glidewell

Betty is survived by her children, Judith (Jerry) Jergensen, Janet Carlson, and Joan (David) Glidewell-Anderson; her grandchildren, Jonathan (Jocelyne) Jergensen, Nils (Stephanie) Jergensen, Juli (Matt) Smith, Martin Carlson, Wil Glidewell, and Becca (Jamie) Bryan; five great grandchildren, and her brother Larry Jones.

She is preceded in death by husband Martin Glidewell, sisters Corinne Anderson, Irma Lee Walker, Mina Jo Schooler, brother Harold Jerome Jones, and grandson Andrew Carlson.

Visitation at Olinger Crown Mortuary on Thursday, Mar. 2, 2017. Funeral service held at Olinger Crown Hill Pavilion of Reflection on Fri., March 3, 2017. Interment followed at Olinger Crown Hill Cemetery. Reception at the Olinger Crown Hill Heritage Hall after the interment.

## Your Mother Is Always With You

**AUTHOR UNKNOWN**

She is the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street,

she's the smell of certain foods you remember, flowers you pick, the fragrance of life itself.

She is the cool hand on your brow when you're not feeling well, she's your breath in the air on a cold winter's day. She is the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep, the colors of a rainbow, she is Christmas morning. Your mother lives inside your daughter. She's the place you came from, your first home,

she's the map you follow with every step you take.

She's your first love, your first friend, even your first enemy, but nothing on Earth can separate you.

Not time, not space... not even death.

**Saturday 1PM**

History of Commerce City at the  
**Commerce City Heritage and Cultural  
Center**

**May 27, 2017**

Fish Farming in Commerce City at the  
**Commerce City Heritage and Cultural  
Center**

**June 24, 2017**

Hog Farming in Commerce City at the  
**Commerce City Heritage and Cultural  
Center**

**July 29, 2017**

The History of Grange at the  
**Commerce City Grange**

**Aug 19, 2017**

The History of the South Adams  
County Fire Department **at the Fire  
Department Headquarters**

**Sept 30, 2017**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Members Free  
Non-Members  
\$5.00**

## **Commerce City Historical Society Lecture Series.....**





# Out N About

From Time To Time, P. 7



Intsel being built at 8573 Ulster Street.



New Fire Department Headquarters almost complete across from City Hall.



Reunion Elementary



Enjoying memories of Al Klein's home March 27, 2017



Commerce City's Light Rail Stop located at E. 73rd & Colorado Blvd.



New construction on Highway 2.

**Call us to schedule your group visit to the Museum, 303.288.2590**



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL TIMELINE

Since its establishment in 1942, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) has played a unique role in the service of our nation. From Arsenal of Democracy to urban wildlife refuge, the RMA has been critical to achieving U.S. defense, space exploration, and environmental remediation and conservation goals. The timeline

### 1940s



**1941-** Japan attacks Pearl Harbor and the United States enters World War II.

**1942-** The U.S. Army establishes the Rocky Mountain Arsenal to produce chemical weapons as a war-time deterrent. The 17,000-acre site is 10 miles northeast of Denver.

**1943-** RMA employees work around the clock to manufacture mustard gas, Lewisite, chlorine gas and incendiary weapons. By year end, the United States has out-produced the Axis Powers by 150 percent.

**1943 -**From 1943 to 1946, the Rose Hill Prisoners of War Camp houses captured German soldiers at the RMA.

*Preserving the history of Commerce City because history matters*



## 1950s



1950- North Korea invades South Korea and the U.S. Army reactivates the RMA to produce chemical weapons and incendiary munitions for the Korean War and Vietnam Conflict.

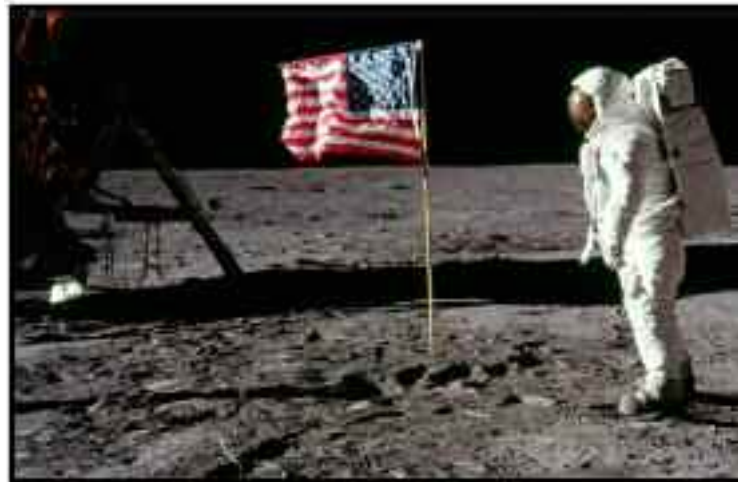
**1952-** Shell Chemical Company purchases Julius Hyman and Company and continues to manufacture agricultural chemicals at the RMA until 1982.

## 1960s

**1962-** Treated liquid waste is injected into a deep well located more than 12,000 feet below the ground surface.

**1966-** Following reports of localized earthquake tremors, the U.S. Army concludes the deep well injection program.

**1969-** Powered by rocket fuel propellant manufactured at the RMA, Apollo 11 lands on the moon.



# In Memoriam

## Carolyn Lee (Anderson) Creps

Dec. 14, 1945 - Jan. 12, 2017

Born Dec. 14, 1945, Denver, CO was called home by her Lord, Jan. 12, 2017 in Commerce City, CO.

Survived by husband Bob Creps; son Marvin

Sisson, three granddaughters, three grandsons, and one great grandson.

Carol was a Colorado Native and lived most of her life in Commerce City. She graduated from Adams City High School in 1963, was active in band and the debate team.

Carol's parents wanted their children to be creative; music became their mission. Carol played the accordeon, sister Ramona (deceased) the electric guitar and brother Darrell (deceased) played the steel guitar and drums.

They formed a band and played at 72nd & Federal in the name of the Tip Toppers, later on weekends in Morrison and changed the name to Penny and the Copper Coins.

In the 60s, their band competed in the Stars for Tomorrow at Cheesman Park for three years. The final year, they won First Place.

Following graduation, she became a beautician, owner of a shop across from Tasty Donuts in Derby; her mother had a photography studio in the back and shared the business.

In Carol's later years, she was robbed of her memories with Alzheimers and her last few years lived at Woodridge Manor Nursing Home where she passed away with family at her side.

The sunshine of yesterday is gone, but what memories she left behind!

Services: First Southern Baptist Church of Northglenn, Jan. 28, 2017.



## Lois E. Miller, 82

Mar. 20, 1934 - Feb. 6, 2017, Commerce City

Lois E. Miller, 82, peacefully passed away February 6, 2017 in Commerce City, CO. Lois was born on Mar. 20, 1934 in Grand Island, NE. Lois married the love of her life, Harley J. Miller, in 1952. They enjoyed 58 years of marriage until Harley passed away in Feb. of 2011. Throughout Lois's life she was one to always lend a helping hand or an encouraging word to whoever may have needed it, family or friends. Lois will always be remembered for her giving spirit and caring personality. She was an actress performing with a Senior Center group out of the Commerce City Rec Center. This quickly became a passion of Lois's that she enjoyed for many years. Lois also greatly relished spending time with a life-long friend, Ivy Welsh, who became more like a sister to her. Up until Lois's husband, Harley J. Miller, had become ill; Lois and Ivy would go flea market shopping and treasure hunting every weekend for many years.

Lois is survived by her large and loving family: one sister, Betty (Cal, who has passed) Scoles; three daughters, Linda (Richard) Robertson, Cathy (Jerry) Liuzzi, and Rene (Bob) Hollandsworth; 7 grandchildren, James Robertson, Justin (Germaine) Liuzzi, John (Joanna) Robertson, Cindy Robertson, Cara (Craig) Meyer, Paul (Jennifer) Liuzzi, and Kayce Miller; also 11 great grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends. Lois is preceded in death by: her beloved Husband, her daughter Judy K. Byrd; her son Thomas Miller; a granddaughter Christina Villapando; and a grandson Joseph Miller.

Visitation held Feb. 13, 2017, 4:00, Olinger Highland Mortuary Chapel. The funeral service held Tues., Feb. 14, 2017, 11:00am also, at the Olinger Highland Mortuary Chapel located at 10201 Grant Street in Thornton, CO. A committal service took place at Fort Logan National Cemetery directly following.

Family has asked that memorial donations be made either to the Denver Hospice or the Susan G. Koman Foundation.



## Joyce Kathleen Scheere

Mar. 16, 1928 - Feb. 8, 2017, Commerce City, CO  
Joyce Kathleen Scheere, born in Fort Lupton, Colorado on Mar. 16, 1928, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Feb. 8, 2017. Joyce was a very loving and caring Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Her family was her life. She lived every day to make sure everyone around her was happy, loved and taken care of. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Westminster and will be dearly missed by all who had the honor of knowing her.

Joyce is survived by her two daughters; Linda Anderson and Debra

Otero, her son; Alan Scheere, Honorary family members; Son in law, Harold Otero and Daughter in law Mary Scheere. Proceeded in death by husband, Ruben Scheere, daughter, Sandra Pierce and granddaughter Amy McCormick. Loving Grandmother of thirteen grandchildren, twenty one great grandkids, and four great great grandkids.

Funeral services held on Tues., Feb. 14, 2017 at Olinger Hampden Mortuary & Cemetery 8600 East Hampden Ave. Denver at 10am for viewing, 11am Funeral Service, and 12 noon Graveside committal service.



## Richard (Richie) Rees Tavener, 49

Died Jan. 21, 2017 in Alamosa. He was born Nov. 28, 1984 in Denver. He grew up in Commerce City but called many Western towns his home. Richie was a professional bull rider and was very loved by his rodeo family.

His mother, Joan Davis, preceded him in death. Survivors include his father, Gerald Van DeVenter, stepmother Sondra; three brothers, three sisters; and an adopted daughter and her three children.

Services were at Goode Centennial Methodist Church, Commerce City on Feb. 4.



## Eldon E. (Jim) Lorshbough, 84

Resident of Brighton, CO. Born Apr. 19, 1932, Connersville, WI, the son of Hugh M. and Mary E. Lorsh-

bough; died Dec. 20, 2016. He served two years in the Army. Married Marlene Evanson and had a son Robert M. who died shortly after birth.

He married Mary J. Bergerud, Feb. 2, 1957 and had four children: David, Diane, Darcie and Danette. Jim was a diesel mechanic, landlord and handyman. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, backpacking and most anything related to the outdoors. He was very proud of his 49 years of sobriety.

Survivors include David H. of Northglenn; Diane (Doug) Linville of Missouri; Darcie E. Friess of Aurora; Danette J. (Bryan) Pyles of Thornton. Grandchildren: Corey Pyles, Jennifer (Justin) Pyles-Gaitan, Erika Friess, Melissa Friess and one great-grandchild Keaton Gaitan.

Service: Dec. 28, 2016, Nativity Lutheran Church, Commerce City; Inurnment at Fort Logan at later date. Arrangements by Aspen Mortuary.

L-R: Carol Anderson - Accordion, Ramona Anderson - Electric Guitar, Darrell Anderson - Drums, and Annette Rotello





# In Memoriam

**Delfina M. Quintana, 90**, Commerce City passed away February 16, 2017.

Delfina is survived in death by her children Joann Taylor; Jean Sheehan; Jesse Quintana; Judy Quintana; by her four grandchildren; Genevieve Abeyta, TJ Treantos; Sierra Martinez; Megan Sheehan; and one great-granddaughter; Jada Love Abeyta. She is also survived by one sister, Floyd Pineda, from Rock Springs Wyoming, and sisters-in-law; Evan Martinez from Des Montes New Mexico; Velma Martinez from Commerce City; and Nabor Cortez of Gallup New Mexico.

Delfina is preceded in death by her late husband Jose "Bert" Quintana; and by her Parents Antonio Martinez and Lucinda Martinez from Des Montes, New Mexico; by her siblings Juan B. Martinez; Emelina Cordova; Margarito Martinez; Epefaino Martinez; Manuel Martinez; Anita Manchego; Rose Quintana; Frank Martinez; Berceia Cortez; and Ben Martinez.

A public viewing held Feb. 23 at Olinger Highland Mortuary, 10201 Grant St., Thornton, I-25 and 104th Ave. Another viewing preceded the Rosary, Our Lady Mother of the Church, 6690 East 72nd Ave. in Commerce City, on Fri., Feb. 24. The Rosary then commenced with Funeral Mass following at Our Lady Mother of the Church in Commerce City.

Burial was at at Olinger Highland Cemetery. A reception will be held at Our Lady Mother of the Church after the burial.

**Anita U. Jackson, 82**, Mar. 29, 1935 - Feb. 17, 2017, Commerce City, CO

Rosary Thur., February 23 with Funeral Mass, Feb. 24 both at the Archdiocese of Denver Mortuary. Interment Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

**Gail Arleen Harris, 70**, Nov. 30, 1946 - Feb. 16, 2017, Commerce City, Colorado.

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

**Virginia E. Perez, 80**, Jan. 4, 1937-Mar. 6, 2017, Commerce City CO.

A Celebration of Virginia's life held on Sat., Mar. 11, 2017 at 1:00pm at the Brighton Elks Lodge, 101 North Main Street, Brighton, CO.

**Birdie McKinney, 103**, Mar. 9, 1914 - Mar. 6, 2017, Commerce City CO.

Visitation - Pipkin Braswell Chapel of Peace 6601 East Colfax Ave., Denver CO, Mar. 13, 2017. Service - Forest Street Church of Christ 3500 Forest St., Tues., Mar. 14 2017. Cemetery - Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver CO, Mar. 14.

**Esther Gerace, 96**

Esther "Grandma" Gerace, the matriarch of Welby Gardens, passed away peacefully at home in Welby CO surrounded by her children on Mon., Feb. 20, 2017. Born in Denver on April 4, 1920. She was married to Alex Gerace for 62 years until his death 2001. Preceded in death by her daughter Phil Finnell, granddaughter DeAnn Ball, grandson Lee Campbell. Survived by 5 children Carmen (Carolyn), Rosemary, Al (Enza), John Sr. (Charlene), Marie (Lee), 15 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Viewing held Feb. 26, Olinger Highland Mortuary, 10201 Grant St Thornton. Funeral held at Assumption Church 2361 E 78th Ave., Welby on Mon., Feb. 27th. Entombment followed at Olinger Highland Cemetery. Reception followed at Welby Gardens, 7390 Clayton St. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate your donations to the following funds: Phil Finnell Scholarship: coloradonga.org or Colorado: alz.org/co.



**Theresa D. McDonald, 76**, Commerce City, CO Oct. 22, 1940 - Feb. 24, 2017

Theresa Del Nino Jesus McDonald passed away at her home. She was born October 22, 1940, Del Norte, CO to Jose and Maria Martinez. She is survived by her husband Bartolo Sanchez, daughters Brenda, and Victoria and a host of other relatives and friends.

Visitation: Mar. 6, 2017 at Olinger Highland Mortuary Chapel. Rosary 6:00 pm Olinger Highland Mortuary Chapel. Family will greet guests afterward in the "Long's Peak Reception Room" at Highland Mortuary immediately following the Rosary.

Mass of Christian Burial: Tues., Mar. 7, 2017, Our Lady Mother of the Church, 6690 East 72nd Ave.

**Ursula Maria Laas, 47**, Commerce City, CO Aug. 12, 1970 - Feb. 22, 2017

Married to Brian.

Memorial Service, Horan & McConaty - Arvada Mon., Feb. 27, 2017. Interment: Riverside Cemetery, Cody, Wyoming. Ursula's family is composing her life story and additional information will be posted as it becomes available.



**Sarah Elizabeth Holmes, 90**

June 17, 1926 - Dec. 7, 2016

Sarah Elizabeth was born in Sheridan, WY to Settie (Byrd) and Thomas Strand. She had one brother, Eldon.

Elizabeth married Kenneth Holmes, Oct. 12, 1945, moved to Denver and in 1949 purchased a home in Commerce City. They lived in that house on 64th Avenue for 64 years. In 2013, they moved to Brighton to the Inglenook Retirement Community.

Elizabeth was born to be a mother and grandmother. She and Kenny raised five children and was the proud grandmother of five more and the great grandmother to two more. She was the happiest when she was surrounded by her family.

Elizabeth worked at Little Pizza Haven for 25 years. She mainly worked days but as manager, she worked evenings, week ends, whenever needed. She enjoyed the employees and of course, the faithful customers. She volunteered for various things in the community as well as the schools (24 years of PTA).

Elizabeth and Kenny were members of the First Baptist Church in Commerce City for many years. She enjoyed working in the kitchen for different functions and was involved in Vacation Bible School when her kids were young. She also enjoyed working in the nursery with the babies.

Elizabeth loved to knit and made afghans for all her family. In the last few years she was famous for knitting her dish rags. She made over 300 and donated to the Project Valentine. Elizabeth was also known for baking cinnamon rolls by the dozens and years of canning green beans, peaches, pears, apple sauce, pickles, jellies, grape juice... for all the family.

Preceded in death by husband Kenny and granddaughter Karol. Surviving family members Tom (Cheryl) Holmes, Jim (Laurie) Holmes, Don (Vanessa) Holmes, Kathie Karns, Sue (Kelly) Corbett and grandchildren Elaine, Ryan, Jeannette, Sarah and great grandchildren Nick and Morgan.

Memorial services held Jan. 28 at the Eagle View Adult Center, Brighton, CO.



# In Memoriam

## **Linda Lee (Kemp) Hoffman, 81 (1936 - 2017)**

Linda Lee (Kemp) Hoffman was born Nov. 23, 1936, to Emma (Knoll) Kemp and John G. Kemp in Grant's Pass, Ore. She married Richard Lee Hoffman, Nov. 27, 1954. They built a house just west of Brighton and raised their five children in that house - Calvin, Steve, Stan, Lori, and John.

Linda served as bookkeeper for the family business while raising their children, then doting on and spoiling their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Linda passed away Feb. 16 at home. Her parents; her brother, Jack Kemp; and two of her sons, Calvin and John, preceded her in death. Survivors include sons Steve (Lisa) Hoffman of Black Forest and Stan (Judy) Hoffman, of Northglenn; a daughter, Lori (Larry) Morgan of Brighton; her grandchildren, Becky, Nichole, Callie, JW, Richard, Miranda, Lainie, Brett, Katie, Greg, Amanda, Melissa, Tim and Tom; numerous great grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

Services for Linda were Feb. 24, at the First Presbyterian Church, Brighton. Followed by a graveside service at Olinger Highland Cemetery, Thornton, and a reception at Hoffman Hall at the Adams County Historical Society museum, 9601 Henderson Road, Brighton. Visitation: Feb. 23, at Olinger Highland Mortuary in Thornton.

## **Ruth Ann Smith, 73**

Dec. 14, 1943 - Mar. 10, 2017

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

She graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Denver, Colorado in 1961. Ruth attended Colorado Women's College in Denver. She graduated in 1965 with a degree in Liberal Arts. She received a secondary teaching certificate from Metropolitan State College in 1991.

Ruth was married to Harry Edward Smith.

Funeral Service held on Mar. 19, 2017 at Tabor-Rice Funeral Home in Brighton. Graveside Service followed on Mon., Mar. 20, 2017 at 11:00am at Fort Logan Nat'l Cemetery, Staging Area 'A'.

## **Jim Sherwood, Sr.** was born July 5, 1950 in Greeley, CO and passed away Feb. 24, 2017.

He attended Adams City High School graduating in 1968. Jim has one son (Jim Sherwood Jr.)

Jim lived in several areas in Commerce City and Adams City. He was a very dedicated volunteer fireman for South Adams County Fire Department with over 20 years of service and retired as a Lieutenant.

He was co-owner of Shopping Center Liquors, 6451 E. 72nd Place in Derby, Colorado and also had his own tire repair business "The Green Giggles".



## **Viola Cortinez, 87, 1929-2017**

Viola Cortinez, longtime resident of Las Animas, CO, passed away in Commerce City, CO on Feb. 16, 2017. Born in Las Animas on May 8, 1929 to Georgia and Pablo Ortega.

She was the youngest of eight children. Viola married Hilbert Cortinez until his death, Dec. 6, 2008. Children were Arthur (Jere) Montoya, Allen (Geri) Montoya, Robert (Molly) Cortinez, Lawrence Cortinez, Anthony Cortinez and Jeanette (Ernie) Silva. Preceded in death by son Lawrence. Also survived by 15 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

"Grandma" Viola was a beautiful woman inside and out. She loved to dance and have a good time. Viola treasured her family, especially the babies, and always made sure they were taken care of.

She loved to cook; while she was inside preparing food, Gramps would be outside working hard. Grandma and Grandpa made the best team. Together they made sure our family was happy and that no one ever went without. Everyone was welcomed into their home and everyone who entered their lives gained a special place in their hearts and will forever have wonderful memories.

Memorial Mass held Mar. 24, 2017, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Las Animas. Father Henry Wertin officiated. Interment followed at the Fort Lyon National Cemetery. A Celebration of her life held in Commerce City, Mar. 23 at the American Legion.

## **Margaret Dorothy Weaver McCarrick**

Jan. 1, 1923 - Apr. 9, 2017

Born just outside of Brighton, CO to parents, Jesse and Louise Weaver. She attended Wattenburg School and graduated from Ft. Lupton High School. She married John McCarrick and they had 3 children; Jess, Charlotte, and Robert. They made their home in

Commerce City, CO where she continued to live.

Early on in her career she worked at Mountain States Telegraph. Over the years she had several jobs while raising her children and retired from Translogic.

Preceded in death by Jess McCarrick Sr. (son), John McCarrick (husband), Charlotte Miller (Daughter), Robert McCarrick (son), Jessie Eppinger (sister), Eva Mae Wassam (sister), and Shawn Miller (Grandson).

Survived by Gladys Chapman (sister), several grandchildren, great grandchildren, 1 great-great grandson, numerous nieces and nephews.

Dorothy enjoyed dancing, bowling, Curves, calligraphy, coloring, and baking. She was a member of the American Legion, and a dowsing club. She enjoyed hosting the annual 4th of July parties for friends and family.

After a short battle with Pneumonia, she passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Apr. 9, 2017.

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



## **Ronald G. Gutru**, of Denver, and most recently of Plattsmouth, NE died Thur., April 13, 2017 at the age of 90, in Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

Known to friends and family as Ron, he was well known for his company Electric Power Equipment, his membership in Commerce City Rotary, the International Order of Rocky Mountain Goats, The American Legion, and the John Birch Society. He taught himself to play piano and loved to share the gift of music with everyone he met.

Ron was born Dec. 19, 1926 in Bradish, NE.. He served in the U. S. Army as a First Sergeant from May, 1945 thru Jan., 1947 and then again from Jan., 1952 through July, 1957 as a First Lieutenant in the Army Corp of Engineers. He then Graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Preceded in death by wife, Catherine Morroni Gutru; three daughters, Sharon Gutru of Plattsmouth, NE, Diane (Mark) Ryan of Highlands Ranch, CO and Cecilia Schultz of Broomfield, CO; 10 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Also survived by brother Dick O. (Beverly) Gutru of Denver, CO and his sister Margaret A. (Duane) Williams, of Boise, Idaho, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Visitation held Apr. 20, 2017, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Fri., April 21, followed by Mass, 10:00 AM, Horan & McConaty Family Chapel, 1091 So. Colo. Blvd, Denver. Interment held Fri., Apr. 21, Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wheat Ridge, CO. Military Honors will be rendered by the United States Army.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Rotary Foundation, [www.rotary.org/give](http://www.rotary.org/give).



# Rocky Mountain Arsenal

(continued from page 9)

## 1970s

**1973-** The Vietnam Conflict ends, and demilitarization becomes the primary focus of the RMA.

## 1980s



Early **1980s-** All production at the RMA ceases and the mission shifts to environmental remediation and restoration.

**1984-** The U.S. Army conducts the RMA Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, which includes the systematic investigation of contamination, the development and evaluation of cleanup alternatives.

**1986-** Workers discover a communal roost of bald eagles at the RMA.

**1987-** The EPA places the RMA on the National Priorities (Superfund) list.

**1989-** The U.S. Army, EPA and Shell sign the Federal Facilities Agreement, which provides a framework for decision-making and for completing 14 Interim Response Actions (IRAs) while final cleanup plans are developed.

**1989-** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes a field office at the RMA to manage bald eagles and other wildlife.

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## Commerce City Historical Society

### Application for Membership

	NAME: _____
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	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? \_\_\_\_\_

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*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

☐ Phone Calls

☐ Working at Events

☐ Work at the Museum

☐ Moving Items

## 1990s



**1992-** Congress passes the 1992 Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Act, which designates the site as a future national wildlife refuge.

**1995-1996-** Following extensive community input, the Off-Post and On-Post Records of Decision (ROD) are signed. The documents provide the framework, purpose and overall rationale for remediation of the site.

**1996-** The U.S. Army, Shell and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service enter into a unique public-private teaming arrangement called the Remediation Venture Office (RVO) to facilitate the safe, timely, cost-effective cleanup and transition of the site.

**1999-** The RMA becomes the first environmental cleanup site in the nation to receive the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) highest workplace

## 2000s

**2003-** The EPA removes 917 acres of RMA land from the National Priorities List. The land is sold to Commerce City for commercial and retail development.

**2004-** After the EPA certifies that cleanup actions are complete, the U.S. Department of Defense transfers 5,000 acres of RMA land to the U.S. Department of the Interior to officially establish the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

**2007-** The EPA honors the RMA with its national Land Revitalization Award. American bison are reintroduced to the site that same year as part of a nationwide conservation effort.



## 2010s

**2010-** All surface environmental cleanup work concludes. Following a final land transfer, the Refuge expands to 15,000 acres.

**2011-** In cooperation with federal, state and local regulatory agencies, the U.S. Army permanently maintains 1,000 acres at the site containing the landfills, waste consolidation areas and groundwater treatment facilities.

**2015-** Black-footed ferrets are reintroduced at the Refuge as part of a nationwide recovery program for the endangered species.



*Preserving the history of Commerce City because history matters*