

www.cchistoric.com

Spring January - March 2015 Volume 6.

# From Time to Time

A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society



- Lois Kimmes (posthumously)
- Reba Drotar
- Debra Bullock

#### **Business Award:**

- Riggi Oil
- Maddox Oil

#### JEAN KLEIN ANGEL AWARD RECIPIENTS: 2010-2015

Jean Klein was a long-time resident of Commerce City who served on many boards and worked tirelessly to improve the water in Commerce City. The Commerce City Historical Society honors people in the community each year who have made a profound impact on the city and residents in Commerce City. Please come and help us honor the 2015 recipients in our community.

- Mrs. Jean Klein
- Mr. Larry Ford
- Mr. Bob Hutchings
- Mr. Hans Alfred Krogh
- Mr. Lester Arnold and Mrs. Mary Arnold

#### 2011

- Mr. Harlow and Mrs. Shirley Leeper
- Mr. Hal Rarick
- Mr. Joe Gilas
- Commerce City Rotary
- Frank Nakagawa

#### 2012

- Commerce City Founding Fathers (Mr. Carl Horblit, Mr. Gordon Hutchings, Mr. Hans Alfred Krogh, Mr. Kenneth Gahagen, Mr. Herbert Hast, Mr. Earl Saurini, Mr. Floyd Templeton)
- Mr. E.E. Casey Hayes
- Mr. Leo Younger Jr.

#### 2013

- Mr. Norm Union and Mrs. Janet Union
- Ms. Barbara Anne Jones
- Mrs. Charlene Jaramillo
- First Responders Award (Mr. Richard Watts, Mr. Harold Hubbell Sr.)

#### 2014

- Senator Bob Martinez
- The Teter Brothers
- The Charter Convention
- Kids First
- Mr. Paskey Teto
- Business Award Hi-Lo Employees Corporation

#### 2015

- Mrs. Reba Drotar
- Mrs. Lois Kimmes
- Mrs. Debra Bullock
- Business Award Riggi Oil and Maddox Oil

If you have a nomination of someone who has made a profound impact in Commerce City or a business over 50 years please complete a nomination form. Forms are available at the Commerce City Heritage and Cultural Center.



#### **COMMERCE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



Cost \$25—Contact Debra Bullock

for tickets - 303-946-3426

Jean Klein Angel Awards:

Lois Kimmes, Reba Drotar, Debra Bullock

Riggi Oil and Maddox oil

**Sunday April 26** 

## Reba Drotar Appointed as CCHS Board Member:

The CCHS Board of Trustees appoints Reba Drotar to fill the vacant board position. She will complete the term from the resignation of June Younger.



Historian Reba Drotar Former Council Woman Ward Three/Mayor Pro Tem

Reba, a native of Commerce City, has extensive knowledge of its history and is, therefore, the Historian for the Historical Society. Reba is a past business owner of the Blue Rose Restaurant and Catering Company. For 9 years Reba also served her community as a Councilwoman on the Commerce City, City Council. Reba also served on numerous boards and commissions, including the regional boards for: E470, Tri County Health, Rocky Mountain Arsenal RAB. Local board memberships include: General Improvement District, Cultural Council, and many others. Reba was "Rotarian of the Year" in 2005, the Commerce City Business and Professional Organization's "Business and Professional Citizen of the Year", the recipient of the "Commerce City Senior Citizens Triple C award", and the recipient of the Exempla Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation's "Good Samaritan of the Year Award" in 2008. Reba also received the leadership "Gold Certification" from the National League of Cities in Washington D.C. in 2009.

Reba has over 40 years of experience working with students of all ages, working with Adams County School District 14 as a volunteer and as an employee, which she is currently working as a Community Resource Specialist. Reba was the visionary of the School District 14 Resource Center, and she instrumental in petitioning Congress and the EPA for the release of the Arsenal land for the Prairie Gateway and the continued cleanup of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Reba was also the only carrier of the petition to keep the current name of the high school and the only petition carrier for the naming of the Hope Resource Center for School District 14.

Reba's number one love is her husband Gary, and her family. Reba has been devoted to the well-being of people of Commerce City and the preservation of their stories and history. She served on the first CCHS board and was instrumental in the development of the Commerce City Historical Society.

#### CCHS Was There

Denver International Airport: 20th Anniversary Saturday February 28, 2015.







## Capturing History

The CCHS has been watching and recording through monthly pictures the building of the current three projects in Commerce City. As of March 31, 2015, see the status below.

#### BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB - 6200 Holly Street





#### **OUTDOOR LEISURE POOL – 60th and Monaco**





FRONTERRA PARK - 10020 Joplin Street







All projects are due to be completed this summer and early fall.

## The First Commerce City Historic Preservation Plan approved by City Council:

January 5, 2015 approved on the first reading February 2, 2015 approved on the second reading.





The Preservation Plan is a policy document intended to serve as a guide for the sustainable preservation of Commerce City's historic assets. This plan will be used by the City Council to implement the community's vision for the safekeeping of the city's history. The plan is a guide as to how to go about surveying, honoring and celebrating the historic resources in the community. The plan is available for review on the City website (C3gov.com) or the Commerce City Historical website (cchistoric.com).

# A Time in History

#### The Curve Tavern

Before television, before you could watch movies at home, before internet and Facebook, before Commerce City was Commerce City, adults from far and wide went north of Denver to one of the largest dance floors around, the Curve Tavern. They came to see their friends, listen to live entertainment and dance, dance, dance.

Named for the noticeable curve in Highway 2, the Curve Tavern was moved in 1942 to its current location, 6496 Highway 2. From that time to this, this great landmark has only had four owners.

The original owner, known as Burley, kept the patron's feet tapping until the early mid 50's when the Curve was sold to Eugene Patrino. Renamed Patrino's, a full service kitchen was installed and Italian dining was introduced.

In 1959, two ACHS graduates, Larry Fleck (1953) and Larry Bright (1950), bought

the building and the old Curve Tavern became

Larry's Lounge. Larry Fleck was, at the time, the youngest liquor license holder in the history of the state of Colorado. Within six months, he had bought out his partner, and became the sole owner of Larry's Lounge. Larry Fleck combined the two previous owner's ideas of live entertainment and good food.

By updating and improving the building, the menu, the music and other activities, Larry operated a successful, well-known business for many years. It is hard to find a person that lived in the Commerce City area during the 60's or 70's that wasn't either a patron or employee of Larry's Lounge.



In 1998, C.J. Sharpless (ACHS 1962), convinced Larry that with C.J.'s construction background and his wife's restaurant background (Pine Tree Café at 72nd & Newport), they could and would be the ones to revive the building and business. They changed the name to Curve Bar & operated under that name for several years while working on contacts to bring the "good music-good food" concept back alive.

Changing the name to Sharp's Roadhouse in 2003, the couple booked locally, nationally (and even internationally) acclaimed singers, bands, and

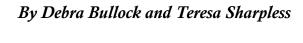
entertainment. The kitchen was reopened for prime rib dinners, smoked

brisket lunches, and great burgers. In 2004,

Sharp's Roadhouse was awarded "Best Country Western Club in Denver" by Westword. In the intervening years, much like Larry Fleck, the Sharpless's have worked with several leaseholders, hoping to find someone who would feel the connection between the building, the business and the community. In 2014 C.J. and Teresa Sharpless once again opened the building as a restaurant Curve and closed the business in 2015.



Now, after cable/satellite TV, internet, cell phones, endless ways to communicate with friends and a changing community, this great historical building is looking for new owners with energy and a vision for the future. Our hope is that any new owner will feel that connection to Commerce City's past and future.





# COMMERCE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



### PROGRAMS 2015

**BOOK DISTRIBUTION TO ALL 3RD GRADERS IN ADAMS 14 (May)** 

SENIOR HISTORY WRITING CLASS

MUSEUM TOUR and HISTORY PRESENTATION - 5<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> GRADERS

**CITY BUS TOUR - HISTORY 101** 



#### **BUSINESS LUNCH PRESENTATION AND TOUR**

**LECTURES: QUARTERLY** (at the Museum)

The Denver Poor Farm-March 30, 2015

**Hog Ranches in Commerce City History-June** 

**Rocky Mountain Arsenal History-September** 

Fish Hatchery History-December

**HISTORY COLORING BOOK DISTRIBUTION (**April)



**WORK PROGRAMS** (Dottie Bakke House July 11, Aug 15, Storage Building, and Museum)

**HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY CLUB** (meets every Monday)

#### YEARLY HISTORY LUNCH WITH CITY ENTITIES

(SACWSD,SACVFD, Adams 14, City and Police Department – Meet in January)

**CEMETERY TOURS** (Commerce City Cemeteries)



**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER** (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)

**HOLIDAY GIVING PROGRAMS** (sponsor a family with money at Christmas, Supply Cookies for Santa, Donate a Christmas tree to a needy family)

**VIDEO HISTORIES** (Families and City Events)

**HISTORY PHOTO CONTEST** (November)

# In Memoriam



Doris Mildred Dade 1928 - 2015

Doris Mildred Dade, 86, of Commerce City, passed away January 2, 2015.

She was born October 22, 1928 in Denver, Colorado, the daughter of Aubrey and Pearl (Wiley) Copher. On January 5, 1948 she married Bernard J. Dade, of Denver, Colorado. She was well known in Commerce City as teaching softball sports to kids as well as her own children. She also taught crafts at the Commerce City Recreation Center and sold her things at the craft sale. She always laughed and kidded with everyone there. She loved everyone she met and loved to tell jokes and make people laugh. Doris is survived by her children, Bernard J. Dade, Jr., Steve (Kimberly) Dade, Diana Lea (Thomas W.) Williams, Patricia Ann (Rodney) Hayashida, and Nancy K. Dade; 13 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; 7 four-legged grandchildren; broth-

ers, Johnny and Jerry

Copher. She is preceded in death by her husband, Bernard Joseph Dade, Sr., and her parents. Memorial contributions may be made in Doris' name to Holy Cross Catholic Church, 9371 Wigham St, Thornton, CO 80229. The service was held on Thursday January 8, 2015 at 10:30am at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 2361 E. 78th Avenue Denver, CO 80229



Barbara Jan Fahey November 11, 1938 - March 12, 2015 Resided in Henderson, CO

Barbara Jan Fahey, 76, of Henderson, passed away on March 12, 2015. She was born November 11, 1938 to Tadashi and Mabel Matooka in Sedgwick, Colorado. Barbara is survived by her husband Eugene; her children Valerie and Eugene Junior; grandchildren Leilani Swan, Lacey Craven, Ryan Fahey, Alissa Fahey, and Eugene William Fahey; great-grandchildren Nathaniel Swan, Kaleigh Swan, Katelyn Swan, AJ Whitney, and Aiden Whitney. A rosary service was held on Wednesday, March 18th at 11:00 in the morning at Our Lady Mother of the Church, 6690 East 72nd Avenue in Commerce City. A Funeral Mass was held on Thursday March 19th at 11:00 in the morning, also at the church.



Joseph "Joe" Harris April 20, 1948 - January 16, 2015

Joe Harris from Commerce City. He owned a garage on 6600 East 74th Avenue (Joe's Auto Service). Joe is Survived by wife Kay; daughters Liza, Kim (Troy) and Joey (Scott); grandchildren Jay and Chad; great grandchildren Grace, Dash and Maddie; brother Art (Barbara); brother-in-law Ben (Lois); sisters-in-law Phyllis (Michael) and Dolores (Roy). He will be lovingly remembered. Funeral service was Friday, January 16th, 10:00am at Olinger Highland Chapel, Thornton.



Rosemarie Sally Holcomb February 15, 1948 - January 14, 2015 Resided in Denver, CO

Rosemarie Sally Holcomb, 66 of Denver, received her "wings" on January 14, 2015. She was preceded in death by her father and mother, Edwin and Helen Frauenfeld and her sister, Anna Maxwell. Rosemarie is survived by her brothers Chuck and his wife Sue, Frank and his wife Cindy and her sister, Edwina Frauenfeld. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. The Frauenfeld family lived in Commerce City for many years. Rosemarie was placed on Mt. Lindo. Her Memorial Service was held 11:00 AM on Saturday, January 24 at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, 500 Drake Street, Denver.

# In Memoriam



Robert Lambert, III

Mr. Pobert Laroy Lambert, III. 55 of Commerce City, Colo.

Mr. Robert Leroy Lambert, III, , 55 of Commerce City, Colorado died on Sunday, March 29, 2015, at North Suburban Medical Center in Thornton, Colorado.

Born Thursday, August 6, 1959 in Denver, Colorado, he was the son of the late Robert Lambert, II and the late Irene Krantz. He is survived by his wife Pamela Lambert, children Kandi Carroll and Kevin Reynolds, brothers Jim Lambert and Terry Lambert, grandchildren Chelsi Marie Green and Joslyn Reynolds. Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Memorial service 11:00am Friday, April 3, 2015 at Aspen Commerce City Chapel



Eli V. Manning 1984 - 2014

Son of Theresa and Pepe Heffenger and the late Leon Manning. Husband of Laurie Duran. Father of Pharoah Manning and Elisea Pedroza. Brother of Samantha (Cruz) Soto, Rachel (Kody) Manning, Leon V. Manning Jr., and Isaiah Heffenger. Grandson of Tony Martinez and the late Elizabeth Martinez. Mass of the Christian Burial 11:00am Friday, December 12 at Our Lady Mother of the Church, 6690 E. 72nd Ave. Commerce City, CO. Interment at Mizpah Cemetery, 12837 County Road 32, Platteville, CO



PATRICIA L. LUCERO (PADILLA) NOVEMBER 10, 1962 TO FEBRUARY 20, 2015

Patricia lived in Commerce City. She graduated from Highland High School in 1980. She received as Associate's Degree in Business and worked for Auraria campus in the Political Science Department for many years. She was a very fun, talented, outgoing, unique individual with a contagious laugh and a smile that could light up a room. Patricia is survived by her daughter Raquel R. Villa, Son Luis C. Villa Jr., Mother Lucy G. Padilla, Brother Jose L. Padilla (Katherine), Sisters Elaine Padilla-Talavera (Otoniel) and Angela K. Bonnell (Rodger). Niece Gabriella K. Gutierrez (Adam), Cecilia C. Bonnell. Great Nephews Benjamin, Jeremiah, and Matthew Gutierrez. As well as numerous uncles, aunts and cousins. Patricia is

preceded in death by her Husband Larry Stambaugh, Father Onofre B. Padilla, Grandparents (Paternal) Basilio and Natividad Padilla, (Maternal) Anselmo and Barbara Garcia and many other loved ones. Services were held on March 7, 2015 at Goode Centennial United Methodist Church (6391 Olive Street).



Lillian Vincel November 24, 1922 – December 27, 2014

Lillian was preceded in death by her husband Andy, son Steve and daughter Jan. She is survived by her son Dwayne, daughter Karen, 5 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Viewing was Tuesday, December 30, 2014 at highland Mortuary, 10201 Grant Street, Thornton, CO 80229 Service was December 31, 2014 also at Highland Mortuary. Committal at Olinger highland Cemetery.

# COMMERCE CITY MAYORS 1952 to present

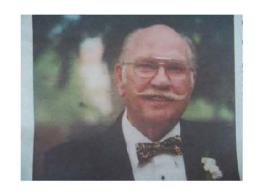
Al Krogh 1952-1965

Ivan Jergensen 1965-1966

**Leroy Fields** 

1966-1968

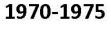


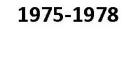


Eli Koff 1968-1970

Harold Kite

Allen Williams











**Harold Kite 1978-1987** 

David R.D. Busby 1987-1999

E.E. Casey Hayes 1999-2003



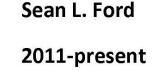




Sean L. Ford

2003-2007

Paul Natale 2007-2011







**2011 Commerce City Historical Society Pioneer Picnic** 



#### MONDAY MARCH 30 DENVER POOR FARM HISTORY LUNCH AND PRESENTATION

Shirley and Albert Foos visited the Commerce City Heritage and Cultural Center. They are life long residents of Henderson, Colorado (120th and Riverdale) and shared their history about the Denver Poor Farm. The presentation and lunch was enjoyed by many. Thank you Shirley and Albert for sharing this history with Commerce City.



The Denver poor Farm



RUBY MILLE

RUBY M



Albert and Shirley Foos

# **CCHS** appreciates our business members!

As a new feature in our newsletter, the Commerce City Historical Society is adding this Business Membership Page featuring advertisements for those businesses that have either a Business/Corporation















# **Commerce City Historical Society**

# **Application for Membership**

	NAME:
St. 2009  Historical Annual Property of the Pr	Address:
	Phone Number:homecell  E-Mail
	Business Name
	Annual Dues
	payable to: Commerce City Historical Society, 60th Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado 80022
ndividual amily	\$10.00(per year) \$25.00 (per year)
usiness/Corporation	
fe Membership	\$500.00(one time)
	pership (Age 65 Plus) \$250.00(one time)
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The state of the s	be notified of meetings and the Newsletter?  _phonemail
F	or questions please call 303-287-6747
<u> </u>	
Comme	erce City Historical Society
	Receipt of Payment
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Date	

# COMMERCE CITY HERITAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER OPEN SATURDAY FROM 10-2 OR BY APPOINTMENT

6505 East 60th Avenue - 303-288-2590

Come and check out our history displays at the Commerce City Museum:

- Memorabilia from the old Adams City High School
- Mile High Kennel Club history and memorabilia
- Arsenal history and memorabilia
- The First 100 Years of Derby
- And More...

#### CCHS Visitors for Jan -March - 125

**CCHS Storage Facility** 

7450 Highway 2

Email: cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Website: cchistoric.com

Our Mission
"To Preserve the
Commerce City Area History"

#### **NEW MEMBERS: 2015**

Nancy Dade Dan Edwards Cynthia Johnson Bessie Martinez

#### **RENEWALS:**

Susan Carabajal

Thelma Cole

Miriam Hast

Carolyn Kerls

Charlene Kittinger

Mary Krenzer

Marilyn Teto

Harry and Margie Buschman

Allen Klein

Dodie Doreen

Bert and Vivian Parker

Family of Larry Quintana

Family of William Shelby

# CCTY Waterme to Commerce City Heritage and Cultural Center 6:05 f 6:0th Are



# Current Members

Debra Bullock

JoAnn Stevenson

Rene Bullock

Dick Stevenson

The Family of Sean & Samantha Ford

Don Sater • Loretta Petty • Thelma Cole • Bob Hutchings • Dorothy Hutchings • Esther Hall • Hester Bonnel • The Family of Reba and Gary Drotar●The Family of Steve and Kristi Douglas●The Family of Troy and June Younger●The Family of Norm and Janet Union • Harlow Leeper • Laura Wells • Maxine Galindo • Sandra Carruthers • Dave Chambers●Kris Jimenez-Chambers●Martha Applegarth●The Family of Carol Dietz●The Family of Dami Hummel●The Family of David and Sherrie Hage●The Family of Carroll & Dolores Harr●City of Commerce City●Magnolia Enterprises●Beverly VanDeWeghe● Joe Stongle● Shirley Brown Wilcoxon●Leora Richards ●The Casey Hayes Family ● The Family of Pam & Jim Meier ● Pearl Brown ● Norma Russell ● Lynn Bradley ● Dixie Pierce●Ronald Brown●Ann Emerson●Julie Hohn● The Family of Judy Tunis●Larry Minert●Mary Minert●Harley Hall●Barbara McMillan● Robert Gehler ● Lou and Charlene Jaramillo ● The Family of Larry Quintana • Steven Kreutzer • Al Klein • The Family of Jim & atraicia Deden • Patricia Blair Corning • Carol Kenworthy●Sally McIntosh●Tom Schrah●Hal Swanson●Laura Wells●Family of Pat and Lynette Malloy●Jim and Pam Meier ● Dotson and Pamela (Bromley) Skaggs ● Reverend Victor and Debbie Young ● Delores Yunko ● Adams 14 Education Foundation • La Casa Del Rey • Derell and Carolyn Younger • Adams 14 Board of Education • Carol Kenworthy • The Family of Harry and Margie Buschman • The Family of Dave and Charlene Busby • The Family of Edward & Ruth Muhr ● Crystal Elliott ● South Adams County Water & Sanitation District ● Marsha Taylor ● The Family of Rudy Grant ● Sheila Gacetta ●The Family of Rick and Patti Teter ● DominickMoreno ● Evelyn Barnard●Pearl Mott●The Family of Herb and Shirley Stertz●Teresa Muniz●Darlene Muniz●Carolyn Kerls●Miriam Hast●Mary Krenzer●Susan Carabaial●Janet Jackson●Delora Lane ● Hi-Lo Employees Corp ● Westminster Historical Society● Foresight ●The Family of Mark Epstein●The Family of Mizaim Cordero●Dottie Bakke●Dodie Doren ● Charlene Kittinger ● The Family of Carl & LaDonna Wagoner ● Bonnie Campbell ● Ted Kimmes ● The Family of Bert & Vivian Parker • The Family of Kevin and Ruth Phillips • The Family of David and Cindy Brown • The Family of Steve O'Dorisio ● Phil Perez ● Marilyn Teto ● The Lois Bertapelle Family ● Linda and Terry Bullington ● Tony and Connie Bertapelle

Alberta and David Farnsworth

Jim and Jan Anderson

Alice and Scott Ingram

The Family of William Shelby The Family of Domenic Teto The Knoll-Meier Realty Group Wayne Maddox, The Family of Jessie Singh Arlene Castro-ReMax Momentum William and Susan Frew Tom Schrah Chaz and Bernadette Tedesko 

Maria and Jason Carabaial 

Cyrus Douglas 

Marlene Goettelman 

Renee Hast Stabila 

Stephanie Hast Clow●Gail Hast●Karen Stromer●Keith and JoAnn Moss

#### THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 VOLUNTEERS:

Pearl and Ron Brown, Harlow Leeper, Sheila Harris, Donna Oberbeck, JoAnn and Dick Stevenson, Rene'and Debra Bullock, Harley and Esther Hall, Thelma Cole, Troy and June Younger, Josh Younger, Amy Younger, Carol Dietz, Steve and Kristi Douglas, Gary and Reba Drotar, Don Sater, Loretta Petty, Tina and Taylor Curtis, Rick Teter, Darlene Muniz, Hester Bonnell, Jerry and Lela Winkler, Leora Richards, Martha Applegarth, Rudy Grant, Sheila Gacetta, Arlene Castro, Wayne Maddox, Lorenzo, Rachel, Kristin, Stout Street Foundation, South Adams Volunteer Fire Department, Dottie Bakke, Alonzo, Lila, Starla Gentry, Lynn Bradley, Charlene Kittinger, Bonnie Campbell, Norm and Janet Union, Shirley Wilcoxen, Adrian and Myanna Schimpf, Pam Meier, Casey Hayes, Richard Gilman, Derrell and Trent Younger, Key Bank, Bob Hutchings.