



From Time To Time

A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society

Summer 2014
Volume 5, Issue 3

It's official CCHS has its first museum space



The former Conter Community Center is the new office/museum for the Commerce City Historical Society. The Commerce City Historical Society and the Cultural Council will be holding a grand opening later this summer.

After five years, the Commerce City Historical Society finally has its first office/museum space.

The Historical Society entered into negotiations with the City of Commerce City for use of the Conter Community Center on Jan. 2, 2014. After several meetings, a lease was finally approved and signed by both parties on May 19, 2014. As part of the agreement,

the Historical Society will be sharing the space with the Commerce City Cultural Council; however, the Historical Society will be the main tenant.

The building will be renamed the Commerce City Heritage and Cultural Center.

The Historical Society began moving in on June 2, 2014. A grand opening is being planned for later this summer.

CCHS honors Jean Klein Angel awardees

The community came out to Salon Madrid on April 27 to honor the winners of the Commerce City Historical Society's annual Jean Klein Angel Awards.

For the past five years, the Historical Society has hosted the From Time to Time Luncheon honoring people in our community who have made a profound impact on the city and its residents.

This year, the Historical Society honored former State Senator Bob Martinez, The Teter Brothers, Kid's First, the Commerce City Charter Delegates and Paskey Teto. A special business award was also given to Hi-Lo Employees Corporation.

"Every year it gets bigger and better," said CCHS Secretary Debra Bullock.

This year the luncheon moved to newly-opened Salon Madrid (formerly the Edelweiss Club).

"We want to thank Manuel Luna and all his staff at Salon Madrid in helping make this year's luncheon a great success," said CCHS Historian

SAWA entrusts book program to CCHS

The South Adams Women's Association has put their trust in the Historical Society.

The group has decided to disband after several years in existence and have asked the Historical Society to continue their mission of distributing books to all third graders in Adams 14 every May.

The group of women, many who are CCHS members, have donated the group's funds to continue this program and help the Historical Society with its efforts of continuing to save and document the city's history.



The Teter Brothers accept the Jean Klein Angel Award at the luncheon.

June Younger.

Nominations for next year's awards are already being taken. Nomination forms can

be found on our website, www.cchistoric.com or by requesting a form at cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com.

Volunteers heed the call



A big thank you to all our volunteers who have come out to help us move and/or clean our new office/museum space -- Stout Street Foundation (Joseph Ellis, Kevyn Lollar, Michael Miller, Roberto Valdez) and CCHS volunteers (Harlow Leeper, Debra Bullock, Esther Hall, Thelma Cole, Darlene Muniz, Loretta Petty, Don Sater, LeOra Richards.) If you would like to help during one of our clean up/set up days, contact CCHS Secretary Debra Bullock at 303-946-3426.

Historical Society helps find ring's owner

Commerce City Historical Society Vice President Esther Hall didn't know she would become an investigator.

Esther was busy calling those she knew about an upcoming CCHS event when she called Charlene Kittenger. During the conversation Esther was asked to change hats and work on locating a former ACHS student.

Charlene's son, Randy Kittenger, had been using his metal detector at the old ACHS football field. He has found over 700 coins, an award for the Colorado High School Activities Association, an ROTC award and an 1998 Aurora Soccer metal award. He also found one very special ring -- a 1992 class ring engraved with the name of Heather Knepp.

Charlene asked Esther to help find the



Heather Knepp was shocked when Randy Kittenger and Esther Hall presented her with her lost class ring. Photos by Lela Winkler.

owner. Esther knew of a classmate that is on the ACHS Alumni committee that could possibly help locate Heather. Within hours we had a name and phone number. When Heather was called about her ring she was unsure of the call, but was soon convinced her precious ring was located after 22 years.

Heather said the

ring was purchased for her by her grandparents who have since passed away. The ring now means more to her since their passing.

A meeting was arranged at the CCHS Yard Sale on May 2. Charlene and her son, Randy, were ready to give Heather back her lost ring.

The ring's value is

now \$850 and Randy wanted her to have it back.

The meeting went off great with tearful anticipation. Heather put the ring on and the moment and anticipation was over. A bond was set at that moment between the three of them. Just another history story for our Historical Society.

Council honors coloring book contest winners



Winners of the 2014 Commerce City Coloring Book Contest pose with City Council and members of the Historical Society and Cultural Council.

The winners of the 2014 Commerce City Coloring Book Contest were honored by City Council May 19.

Second grade students from across Commerce City vied for the top spots in the contest.

A reception before the city council meeting gave winners' families a chance to enjoy the art show of all the entries.

The students then were recognized by city council and had their picture taken with the council. They were also given certificates, ribbons and prizes.

The contest is sponsored by the Commerce City Historical Society and Cultural Council.

A Moment in History...

Conter property has rich history



The Conter Community Center, now the offices/museum of the Historical Society, sits on the property owned by the Conter Family back in 1870. Parts of the original home are incorporated into the building structure.

Before becoming the Commerce City Historical Society's first office space/museum, the Conter property had a rich history in our city.

The Conter farm, owned by Bill and Catherine Conter, was a wheat and barley farm located in Commerce City as far back as 1870. They also had a hog ranch located north of 56th Avenue and east of Holly Street and leased part of their farm to the Lungdren Family, who ran it as a dairy farm at 60th Avenue and Monaco Street.

The Conter land boundaries were approximately east to Niagara Street, west of Holly Street, south to 56th Avenue and north to 61st or 62nd Avenue. There were dogs, ducks, chickens and an Arabian welch horse named Cuckkleburr.

Mr. and Mrs. Conter and their daughter,

Louise, lived in the house on 56th Avenue and Holly until their divorce in the early forties. After they were divorced, Mr. Conter moved the house to 60th Avenue and Glencoe Street (5960 Glencoe). Mrs. Conter and Louise moved to Denver and later moved to the farmhouse at 60th Avenue and Monaco Street when the Lungdren family moved out.

Louise attended catholic schools and became a nun. Her nickname was Billie. She transitioned from being a nun to being an operating nurse at Mercy Hospital in Denver. She often wore a wool coat and a silk scarf along with rubber galoshes, even during the summer.

Catherine, the mother, was a homemaker and very reclusive, rarely being seen. She had one favorite time of the year when she made

Conter history *Continued from previous page*

fudge for the children in the area on Halloween.

The farmhouse at 60th Avenue and Monaco Street was an old red brick, two-story house facing south. Behind the house sat an old brick barn and a separate ramshackle wooden shed. An old blue Buick sat under a lean-to.

The city had grown up around the old farm property. On the west, north and east, modest homes had been built since the early 1950s. A small neighborhood store and a lumber yard (Monaco Lumber) were the neighbors to the south. South of the lumber yard was land that the city acquired from the Conter property to build Monaco Park. The park property was needed for drainage detention purposes when storm sewers, curb, gutter and sidewalks were constructed in the early 1970s. There were indications, however, that the Conters were not happy with the city and the land acquisition process.

In 1975, the city council had adopted a zoning ordinance. The ordinance provided that within two years of the adoption of the ordinance, uses on residential-zoned property must comply with the new ordinance. The Conter property was zoned residential and keeping the animals and continuing farm activity was no longer going to be allowed on the property.

In 1977, Catherine and Louise Conter were in big disagreements with the city over code violations. Brighton District Court Judge Dorothy E. Binder decided that 56-year-old Louise Conter must spend a month in jail and pay a fine of at least \$100 for refusal to remove the horse (Cuckkleburr). Horses aren't allowed in areas designated for residential use.

Henry Barriner, a fiery opponent of many city policies, helped the Conter women get Cuckkleburr back on the farm to his home pasture. There was even a "Welcome Home Cuckkleburr" party. However, the drama continued for many years with the ladies and the city over Cuckkleburr. The women said they were just trying to maintain a family lifestyle that has been the norm since the Conter farm was established in 1870.

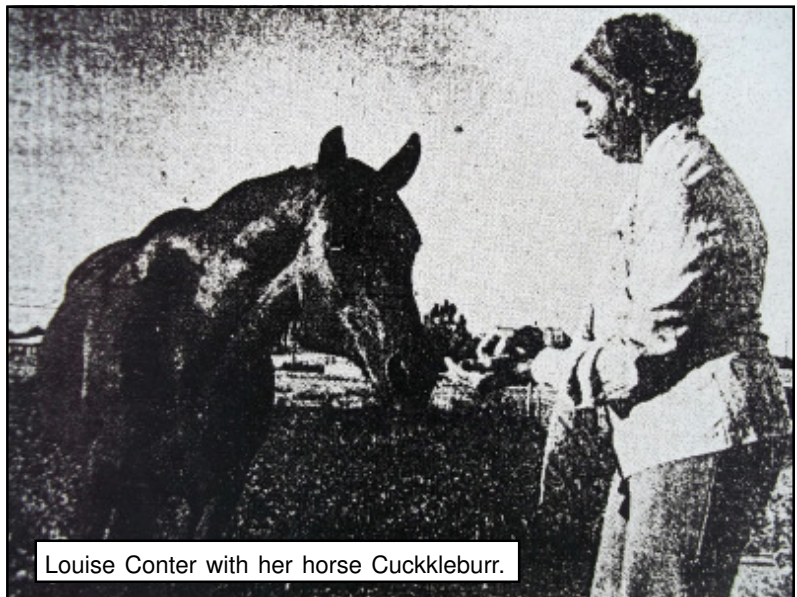
Catherine Conter said that Cuckkleburr was her whole life and her whole soul. Her love for the aging mare was planted as a small child growing up on the same farm.

"I've spent the best part of my life on the back of a horse," she said.

The city officials were not moved by the Conter's lifelong attachment to horses and considered their decision to challenge the court order an obstruction to progress which not only got City Attorney Bob Gehler involved, but Republican Senator William Armstrong. An unsuccessful attempt for a variance from the Board of Adjustment just made matters worse.

The Conter women and Mr. Conter eventually passed away and they willed their land to the Catholic Charities (Little Sisters of the Poor), which Melody Homes purchased in early 2000. This land is what we know today as Monaco Park, Pioneer Park and The Conter Estates.

In approximately 2004, the City of Commerce City purchased the land from Melody Homes after a failed attempt to build houses on this land. In 2006, Pioneer Park was opened. The Commerce City Housing Authority purchased the land from the city at 60th Avenue and Monaco Street to build The Conter Estates, a senior living complex. The old buildings were demolished and the current Community Center was built in 2004, where the house was located. The building was designed and materials were



Louise Conter with her horse Cuckkleburr.

selected to resemble the farmhouse and some original wood doors and built-in dressers were kept and built into the new building. This building has served as a community center, city offices and now the first museum in Commerce City.

If you look closely in the landscaping near the northeast corner of Pioneer Park (Monaco Street and 60th Avenue), you can find a statue of a little horse (Cuckkleburr).

CCHS Out and About

The Commerce City Historical Society has been out in the community documenting and saving history as well as fundraising for future programs and having some fun!



The Commerce City Historical Society, along with the Adams City High School History Club, participated in the 50th Annual Commerce City Memorial Day Parade on May 26.



We had one of our annual spring garage sales on May 3. Thank you to volunteers Martha Applegarth, Don Sater, Loretta Petty, Leora Richards, Lela Winkler, Jerry Winkler, Thelma Cole, Harley Hall, Esther Hall, Ron Brown, Hester Bonnell and Debra Bullock. It was a success. We raised over \$300. Not bad for one day. Thank you to all of our volunteers and to all who stopped and took advantage of all the items we were selling. Don't forget about our next garage sale on Oct. 3 at our storage facility at 7450 Highway 2.



CCHS Historian June Younger and Secretary Debra Bullock set up a display about the demolition of the former ACHS campus at this year's Union High/ACHS Alumni Association's Reunion on June 29.



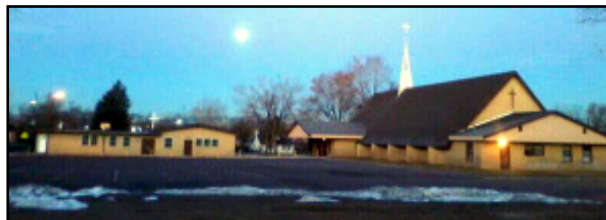
Participants enjoyed our trip up to Central City on May 18. In addition to gaming, everyone enjoyed learning Colorado history along the way.



Above, at the City Outreach June 12 in the Reunion Subdivision. At right, at Dottie Bakke's home helping clean up the yard.



The Commerce City Historical Society was out in the community.

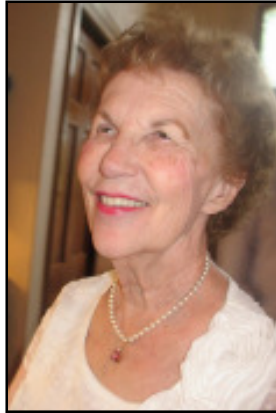


A BIG Thank You to Our Saviour Lutheran Church for allowing the CCHS to use your facilities during the past five years. Our next meeting on July 18 will be held at our new offices at 6505 E. 60th Ave.

In memoriam...

LUCILLE FAYE MCINTYRE

Lucille Faye McIntyre was an elegant, charming, quick witted, beautiful lady that was born on June 24, 1931, to Gottlieb and Rosina Egli. The youngest child of the family, she grew up with her seven brothers and sisters on the Egli family farm that her father built in 1912 after emigrating from Switzerland. She lived on the Egli farm until 1942 when it was seized by the federal government to support the war effort. It was claimed by the U.S. Army and made into the Rocky Mountain Arsenal where chemical weapons and bombs were made for 40 years. Lucille then moved with her parents to another farm in Brighton.



Lucille graduated from Adams City High School in 1949. True to her leadership spirit, she continued as a major contributor to high school reunions throughout the rest of her life.

She married Bob McIntyre on Oct. 2, 1960. She remained best friends and deeply committed to Bob until her last day. In fact, when Bob became ill she dedicated herself to keeping him in optimal health as his primary caregiver and advocate.

Lucille and Bob were successful business owners of Old town Liquors. Lucille provided phenomenal customer service and knew most of her customers on a first name basis. She was such a great conversationalist that her customers couldn't simply drop in. Rather, there was always a story to be told.

It was the liquor store and their successful ownership that allowed Lucille and Bob to do the things they loved. Lucille was worldly and seemingly was always jet-setting off somewhere. Boy did she love to travel. They also parlayed the success of Old Town Liquors to enjoy their membership at Pinehurst Country Club, become season ticket holders to the Denver Broncos and developing a wardrobe that any woman would be envious of. During her later years she became an advocate for her childhood home.

Lucille passed away on March 19, 2014, but before that she lived life to its fullest. She made her mark on her friends and her family and she was an inspiration to those she knew. And while she is gone, she will continue to live on through all of us.

MARTHA MAURER

Martha Maurer was born the second twin, 15 minutes behind her older sister, Mary, on Nov. 28, 1932, in Fort Totten, N.D. Martha was the sixth of nine children of Ray Welch and Agnes (Welch) Burg. She grew up in Fort Totten until the age of 13 when she left home and became a live-in nanny and housekeeper for Herman and Jen Rutten.



In 1950 she met Earl Maurer, a local farm-hand from Warwick, N.D., who had just completed his tour of duty with the U.S. Army. The couple married on June 28, 1951, in Devils Lake, N.D.

With a sense of adventure and with the companionship of Martha's sister, Terry, and her husband, Clark (Allen), Martha and Earl moved to Denver. In 1956, they purchased a plot of land in Commerce City and started building their home. After the outside walls were up and a roof was on, they moved into their home on Pontiac Street where they continued to finish their home and raise their four children for the next 20 years. They lived in Commerce City until 1996.

Martha did an assortment of jobs in addition to raising her family including working for meat-packing, potato chip and Christmas tree factories; provided home daycare; cleaned a local dental office; and, worked in the laundry room of a hotel. However in 1986, Martha was diagnosed with diabetes which caused some major nerve damage and loss of muscle tone. The diabetes, neuropathy and reduced muscle tone limited Martha's mobility from that time forward.

Martha passed away June 13, 2014. She is preceded in death by her husband, Earl Maurer; six brothers, Raymond Welch, Nickolas Welch, Richard Welch, Herbert Welch, James Welch, and Gene Burg; and, two sisters, Theresa Allen and Patricia Gilbert.

She is survived by her sister Mary Fountain; four children, Linda Gossett, Diana Haberkorn, Tammy Maurer and Martin Maurer; six grandchildren, Michelle Gossett, Jayson Haberkorn, Katie Jensen, Craig Maurer, Amanda Barton, Nicole Lester; and, four great-grandchildren, Aleen Maurer, Issac Barton, Aeralyn Barton, Kenzie Jensen.

In memoriam...

ELIZABETH (BETH) LAMBRECHT

Elizabeth (Beth) Gwendolyn Choate Lambrecht was born in Denver to Charles and Ruby Choate. She spent her young life, however, in Trinidad, Colo., with her younger sister, Elsa. They lived some of the time in Trinidad and some of the time on her parent's ranch outside Trinidad.



A young man came to town trying to start a band and both Beth and Elsa joined it, taking lessons from the young band leader. The band played in and won marching band competitions all over the state with Beth climbing up to lead clarinetist. They played several years for the National Western Stock Show. Beth cherished memories of that time in her life. She attended the Colorado State University studying to be a dietitian.

A young soldier named Irwin Lambrecht began rooming with the Choate's while attending classes at Trinidad Jr. College and before very long an attraction formed between Irwin and Beth. Once the war was over, they married.

Irwin worked for Colorado Interstate Gas Co. and eventually was transferred to Denver. By then they had two children, Nicalee and Richard. They settled in Commerce City where they purchased land and built their own home. The house was located adjacent to Central Elementary School and Nicalee and Richard had only to step over the fence to get to school.

About 12 years after Nicalee was born, along came Janet, the baby of the family. Irwin and Beth loved traveling so every summer they would pack up the car and off the family would go. Their travels would take them all over the western half of the United States exploring caves, the ocean, fishing, hiking, collecting rocks and enjoying the sights.

Beth spent the majority of her time as a homemaker, sewing, cooking, gardening and caring for her family; but, she also worked a while sewing drapes, doing clerical work for Adams County Center for the Retarded and at a greenhouse raising flowers.

They were very active in their church, Calvary Temple, and traveled twice to Israel, also seeing Italy and Egypt.

Beth joined the Commerce City Music Makers playing her clarinet and performing for various churches, adult care facilities and

recreation centers. She booked the performances, kept roll and helped with costumes.

She was also active with the Lord's Pantry, providing bags of groceries to shut-in senior citizens, and with the Suncor Citizens Advisory Board.

She was honored for her work with the Music Makers by Commerce City Mayor Sean Ford and the Recreation Center staff with the coveted Red Sweater award.

During her final year, she went to the Senior Hub Adult Day Care Center and enjoyed playing bingo, singing and discussing topics of interest with the group. She was ushered into her heavenly home with family and friends gathered around her.

GILBERT FRANK "GILLY" ATENCIO

Gilly was born on June 20, 1940, and passed away on April 17, 2014.

He is survived by his daughter Tammy (Javier) Hernandez; sisters Virginia (Raymond) Torres and Anita (Richard) Sanchez; brother Ernie (Nancy) Atencio; and, grandchildren Jonathan, Joshua, Jesse (Alicia), Jennah and Alexie.



A rosary was prayed on Thursday, April 24, 2014, at 7 p.m. A memorial mass was held on Friday, April 25, 2014, at 11 a.m. Both services were held at Our Lady Mother of the Church, 6690 E. 72nd Ave., in Commerce City.

CHARLES LUPE ROLLA

Charles Lupe Rolla passed away April 25, 2014. He was born Aug. 20, 1954.

He is survived by his children, Laura (Larry) Osborne, Angelina (John) Radcliff and Roman Charles Rolla; brothers David (Cindy) Rolla, Victor Rolla and Larry (Angela) Rolla; sisters Susie (Wayne) Dikeman, Margaret (Charlie) Vigil and Doris (Rudy) Arellano; and, six grandchildren Diana, John, Gabriel, Rob, Alexis and Carly.

Memorial service were held May 2, 2014, at Our Lady Of Grace Catholic Church, 2645 E. 48th Ave. in Denver. Inurnment was at Elmwood Cemetery.

In memoriam...

LEONARD P. DIETZ SR.

Leonard P. Dietz Sr., 86, of Henderson, passed away on June 3, 2014.

Leonard was born July 30, 1927, in Adams City, Colo. He attended Adams City High School, graduating in 1945. Leonard served in the U.S. Navy during the end of WWII. He returned to Commerce City and married Carol Horblit on Feb. 14, 1948.

He was a charter member of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. He later attended Mt. Zion Lutheran Church for over 20 years. He worked his entire career at Mountain Bell. Leonard was a member of the Commerce City Historical Society.

He is survived by his loving wife Carol; children Judy Dietz, Susan Sullivan, Linda McMichael, Leonard (Vicki) Dietz, Jr.; nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and, five great-great-grandchildren.



RAY LEE ROSSI

Ray Lee Rossi, 66, of Hudson passed away April 28, 2014, in Denver. He was born Sept. 5, 1947, in Denver to Frank and Lorraine (Ficco) Rossi. He graduated from Adams City High School in 1965 and later married Anita Kreinberg on Nov. 20, 1977, in Welby, Colo.

Ray owned and operated Rossi Dairy-Produce since 1976, having farmed his entire life. He was a volunteer fireman for South Adams Fire for nine years and was a member of Our Lady of Victory Chapel in Aurora. He loved farming and his own farm. Ray was proud of his work as a farmer. He loved ice fishing with his sons and enjoyed trips up to the mountains. He also loved his Border Collie, Lacey. Ray had a loving personality and he will be greatly missed.

Ray is survived by his wife, Anita, of Hudson; three sons, Frank Rossi, Vincent (Francine) Rossi and Lee Rossi, all of Hudson; three brothers, Franklin (Karen) Rossi of Littleton, Roger (Fern) Rossi of Arvada and William (Tammye) Rossi of Ozark, Mo; twin-sister, Kay (Richard) Ito of Centennial; and, four grandchildren.

A Rosary Service was held Thursday, May 1, 2014, at Tabor-Rice Funeral Home in Brighton, with visitation one hour prior. Low Trinitine Latin Mass followed on Friday, May 2, 2014, at Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Chapel in Aurora. Interment was at St. Isidore Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made in Ray's name to Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Chapel, 2566 Sable Blvd., Aurora, Colo. 80011. Tabor-Rice Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

ROBERT (BOB) JAMES ARAGON

Commerce City resident Robert James Aragon, 87, passed away June 20.

Bob served on the South Adams County Water and Sanitation District's Board of Directors for 28 years and was involved with many community events and organizations.

He is survived by wife, Beverly Aragon; children, Jessie James (Francis) Aragon, Mark Allen Aragon, Robbie J. Duffy; and, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Visitation and funeral services were held on June 25 at Romero Funeral S. Chapel, 1805 S. Sheridan Blvd., Lakewood. Funeral Honors were held at Ft. Logan Cemetery.



NANCY JACOBS

Nancy Jacobs, 67, of Corydon, Iowa, formerly of Commerce City, passed away April 8, 2014, at Corydon.

Nancy was born Oct. 20, 1946, in Denver to Louis and Ella Louise (Day) Logan. Nancy attended Adams City High in Commerce City.

Nancy later worked at 7-Up Bottling Company in Denver for nearly 20 years. On Nov. 10, 1963, she married Kenneth Jacobs and the couple resided in Commerce City. Their union was blessed with two daughters, Kolleen and Joann.

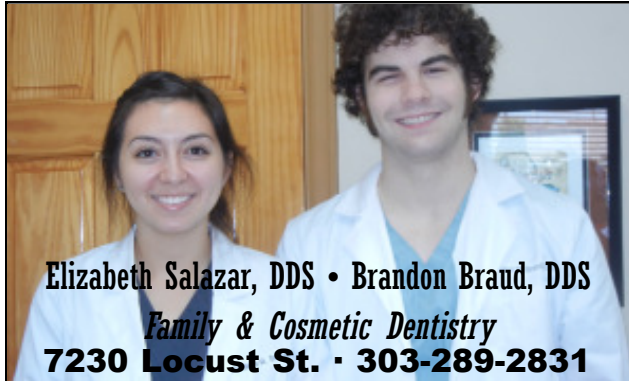
Nancy, along with her husband, loved spending time outdoors. She deeply enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing, trap shooting and car racing. She also enjoyed gardening, raising flowers, reading James Patterson and watching western movies.

Nancy is preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Jacobs; father, Lewis Logan; and a sister, Nina Johnson.

Survivors include her mother, Ella Louise Wynn of Corydon; two daughters, Kolleen (Drew) Wallace of Rockledge, Fla., and Joann Jacobs of Grand Junction; five grandchildren; four great grandchildren; siblings, Darmon Logan of S.D., Robert (Phyllis) Logan of Aurora, Karen (Gary) Johnson of Corydon; and, many other relatives and friends.

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 who have either a Business/Corporation Membership or a Lifetime Membership in the CCHS.



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Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
7230 Locust St. • 303-289-2831



7280 MONACO ST. 303-286-3982

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Commerce City Historical Society

Application for Membership

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ home _____ cell _____

E-Mail _____

Business Name _____ Date Paid _____

Annual Dues

*Please make checks payable to: Commerce City Historical Society,
6130 Ivanhoe Street, 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)

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

Email _____ phone _____ mail _____

Donations

I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Commerce City Historical Society:

*Please make checks payable to: Commerce City Historical Society,
6130 Ivanhoe Street, Commerce City, Colorado 80022*

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ home _____ cell _____

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- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> General Operating Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Future Building Acquisition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Future Land Acquisition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Specific |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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Commerce City, CO 80022

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Editor: June Younger



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and events



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"To Preserve the Commerce City Area History"

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