

C O L O R A D O

Heritage

The Magazine of History Colorado

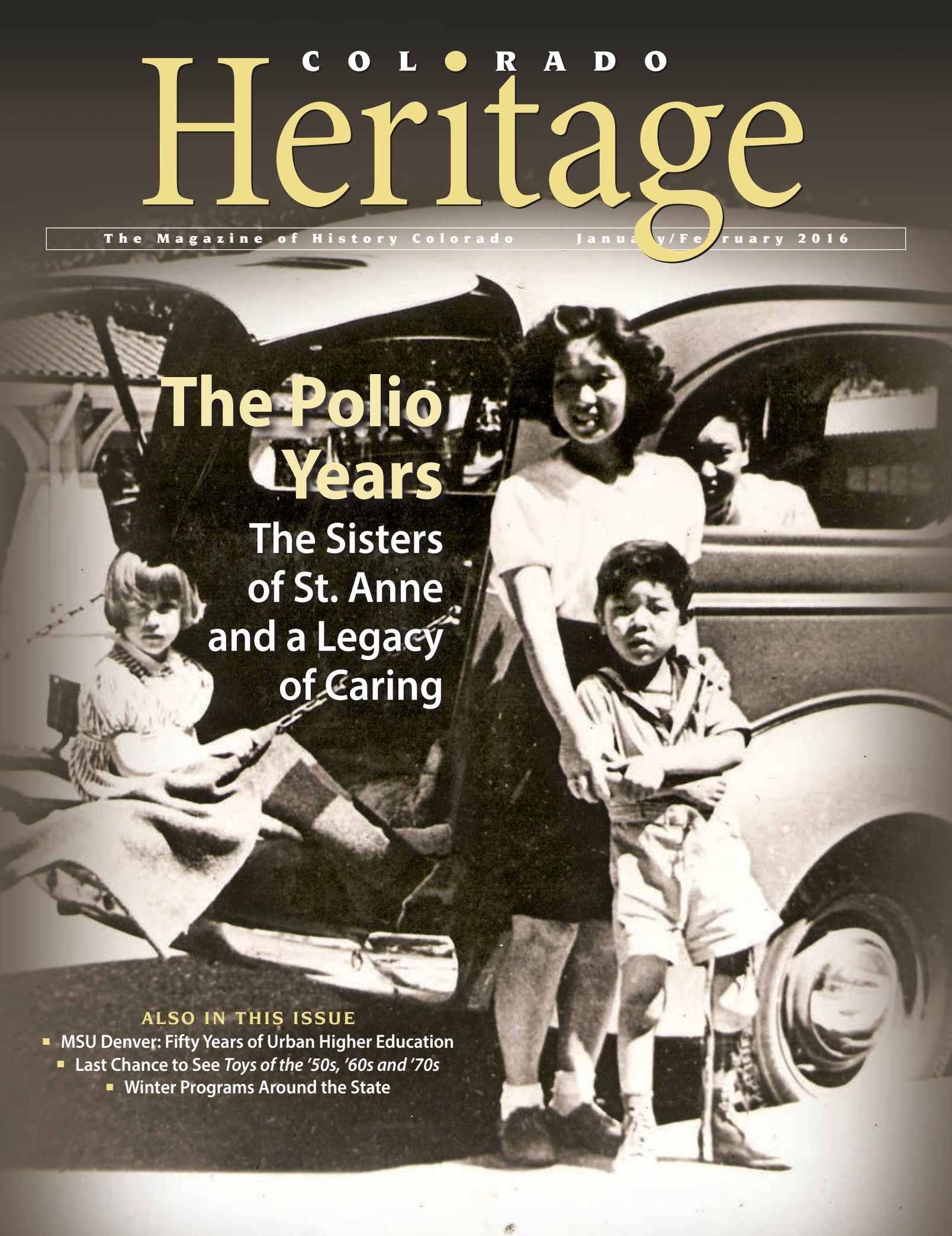
January/February 2016

The Polio Years

The Sisters
of St. Anne
and a Legacy
of Caring

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- MSU Denver: Fifty Years of Urban Higher Education
- Last Chance to See *Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s*
 - Winter Programs Around the State



History Colorado Center

1200 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80203
303/HISTORY

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Sign up for the monthly *History Colorado NOW* electronic newsletter by emailing membership@state.co.us; or visit HistoryColorado.org and click on "Membership."

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual \$65 (1 adult)

1 membership card, 1 guest ticket, 1 Georgetown Loop Railroad® ticket

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NEW! Dual \$75 (2 adults or 1 adult and 1 guest)

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NEW! Senior Dual \$70 (2 adults age 65+ or 1 senior and 1 guest)

2 membership cards, 2 guest tickets, 2 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets

NEW! Grandparent \$80 (2 adults, up to 4 grandchildren under 18)

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Family \$85 (2 adults, children under 18)

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Explorer \$150 (2 adults, children or grandchildren under 18, 2 guests)

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Members at these Giving Society levels receive the VIP experience!

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2 membership cards, 8 guest tickets, 8 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets,
2 lecture tickets

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4 lecture tickets, exclusive events, recognition in Annual Report and Donor
Wall, private collections tours, concierge service, Smithsonian Affiliates benefits*

NEW! Pioneer \$3,000 (2 adults, children or grandchildren under 18, 6 guests)

2 membership cards, 12 guest tickets, 12 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets,
6 lecture tickets, exclusive events, recognition in Annual Report and Donor
Wall, private collections tours, concierge service, Smithsonian Affiliates
benefits*, access to museum leadership

NEW! Visionary \$10,000 (2 adults, children or grandchildren under 18, 6 guests)

2 membership cards, 14 guest tickets, 14 Georgetown Loop Railroad® tickets,

10 lecture tickets, exclusive events, recognition in Annual Report and Donor Wall, private collections tours, concierge service, Smithsonian Affiliates benefits*, access to museum leadership

*History Colorado is a Smithsonian Affiliations member. Join or renew at Bancroft or above and receive:

- One year of *Smithsonian* magazine
- 10% discount at Smithsonian Museum stores, Smithsonian catalog, and SmithsonianStore.com
- Travel and study tour opportunities
- And more! See <https://affiliations.si.edu>



Smithsonian Affiliations
Membership Program

ALL MEMBERS ENJOY THESE PRIVILEGES FOR 12 FULL MONTHS

- Unlimited free admission to the History Colorado Center
- Unlimited free admission to History Colorado museums and historic sites statewide
- First access and free admission to traveling exhibits
- Free and discounted train rides and mine tours at Georgetown Loop Historic Mining & Railroad Park®
- Exclusive invitations to member events, programs and previews
- One-year subscription to the award-winning *Colorado Heritage*
- Discounts on popular history lectures, tours, treks and events
- Special opportunities to see History Colorado collections and artifacts
- 10% discount in History Colorado museum gift shops
- 10% discount in History Colorado Center's Café Rendezvous
- Discounts on research and photo services in Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center
- Benefits and privileges at Time Travelers® museums and historical sites nationwide



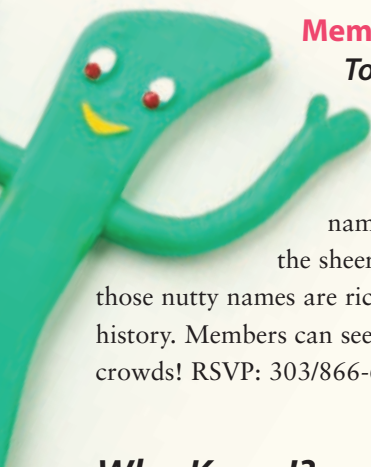
of the '50s, '60s and '70s

Ending Soon! Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s

Through January 31

This fun traveling exhibit encourages playfulness, with its themed rooms filled with games and toy treasures, from Gumby to Barbie, Mr. Potato Head to Hot Wheels. These popular toys capture the craziness, the joy, the sheer fun of being a kid. But toys are also a window into American culture and history.

Developed by the Minnesota History Center.



Members' Last Chance!

Toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s

Wednesday, January 20, 6 to 9 P.M.

Gumby. Barbie. Slinky. Mr.

Potato Head. Hot Wheels. These

names capture the craziness, the joy, the sheer fun of being a kid. And beneath

those nutty names are rich veins of nostalgia, memory and history. Members can see *Toys* one last time without the crowds! RSVP: 303/866-6524

Who Knew!?

Everything Old Is New Again

On view through Sunday, January 24

Alfred Packer's revolver. Baby Doe Tabor's opera coat.

The Robert Louis Stevenson family's dressing table. Molly

Brown's two-piece dress from the '20s. Each week this

winter, History Colorado has revealed these objects and

more, all from Colorado's collections. Curatorial staff

sifted through millions of documents, photographs and

artifacts to find riveting relics of our state's rich history.

The last unveiling is on January 5, when historian Patricia

Nelson Limerick

will reveal a very special artifact.

See all the objects from *Who Knew!?*

Everything Old is New Again, on display through January 24.

*Photo courtesy
Minnesota History Center*

History Colorado on the Web

HistoryColorado.org

Blogs

historycolorado.org/blogs

Social Media

Facebook

[facebook.com/HistoryColorado](https://www.facebook.com/HistoryColorado)

Twitter

twitter.com/HistoryColorado

Pinterest

[pinterest.com/HistoryColorado](https://www.pinterest.com/HistoryColorado)

Instagram

[instagram.com/HistoryColorado](https://www.instagram.com/HistoryColorado)

COLORADO Heritage

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

I 4 Preservation Now

I 6 The Sisters of St. Anne
and Their Times

Rev. Merrie Need

2 4 How MSU Denver Became:
A Tale of Forward Thinking,
Legislative Jockeying and
Civic Collaboration

Caroline C. Schomp

DEPARTMENTS

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ON THE COVER

In 1929, three Episcopal Sisters of the Order of St. Anne arrived by train in Denver with a single mission: to serve children. Soon, the convalescent home they built for Colorado's children faced a new challenge in the polio virus. Again, they answered the call. Photo courtesy St. Anne's Episcopal School.

All images are from the collections of History Colorado unless otherwise noted.

HISTORY COLORADO CENTER

1200 Broadway, Denver

Open: Daily, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.**Extended evening hours! Open till 9 P.M. on Tuesday, January 19, and Monday, February 15.****Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$12; seniors and students \$10; children \$8; children 5 and under free. **303/HISTORY**, www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$12; seniors and students \$10; children \$8; children 5 and under free. **303/HISTORY**, www.HistoryColoradoCenter.org**BYERS-EVANS HOUSE MUSEUM**

1310 Bannock Street, Denver

Open: Gallery and Gift Shop open daily, except Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

House on view by tour only, 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Admission: Members free; nonmember adults \$6; seniors and students (with ID) \$5; children (6–12) \$4. Group tours available. **303/620-4933**, www.ByersEvansHouseMuseum.org**EL PUEBLO HISTORY MUSEUM**

301 North Union, Pueblo

Open: Open Monday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Sunday, noon to 4 P.M.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$5; seniors, children 6–12, and students with ID \$4; children 5 and under free; children 12 and under free on Saturdays. **719/583-0453**, www.ElPuebloHistoryMuseum.org**FORT GARLAND MUSEUM**

25 miles east of Alamosa off U.S. 160

Open: January–March, by appointment only. April–September, daily, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. October–December, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$5; seniors \$4.50; children (6–16), \$3.50. **719/379-3512**, www.FortGarlandMuseum.org**FORT VASQUEZ MUSEUM**

13412 U.S. 85, Platteville; 35 miles north of downtown Denver

Open: October–March, Wednesday through Sunday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; closed Monday and Tuesday. April–September, daily, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. To schedule tours, call 303/866-4591.**Admission:** Members and children under 5 free; nonmember adults \$3; seniors \$2.50; students (6–16) \$2. **970/785-2832**, www.FortVasquezMuseum.org**GEORGETOWN LOOP HISTORIC MINING & RAILROAD PARK®**

Georgetown/Silver Plume I-70 exits

Call **1-888/456-6777** for reservations or visit www.georgetownlooprr.com.**GRANT-HUMPHREYS MANSION**

770 Pennsylvania Street, Denver

Open: For rental events, including receptions, weddings, and business meetings. **303/894-2505**, www.GrantHumphreysMansion.org**HEALY HOUSE MUSEUM AND DEXTER CABIN**

912 Harrison Avenue, Leadville

Open: Daily, May through October, 10 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Group tours (20+) can be arranged in winter (depending on availability) with reservation.**Admission:** Members free; nonmember adults \$6; seniors \$5.50; children (6–16) \$4.50; children 5 and under free. **719/486-0487**, www.HealyHouseMuseum.org**PIKE'S STOCKADE**

Six miles east of La Jara, near Sanford, Colorado, just off Highway 136

Open: Memorial Day to October 1, or by appointment.**TRINIDAD HISTORY MUSEUM**

312 East Main Street, Trinidad

Open: May 18–September 30, Tuesday–Friday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Closed on state holidays. Free self-guided tours of garden and grounds, Monday–Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Baca House and Santa Fe Trail Museum available by appointment for groups of six or more. Bloom Mansion closed for restoration.**Admission:** Members free. Nonmember ticket options for Historic Homes Guided Tours, Santa Fe Trail Museum self-guided tours, Friday Heritage Garden Tours, and combination tickets at adult, senior, and child rates. Children 5 and under free. **719/846-7217**, www.TrinidadHistoryMuseum.org**UTE INDIAN MUSEUM**

17253 Chipeta Road, Montrose

Closed for expansionOpen in temporary office space, Montrose Visitor Center, 170 S. Cascade
970/249-3098, www.UteIndianMuseum.org

From the CHAIR

I'm thrilled to say that this year was huge for History Colorado. In 2015 we saw the opening of *Searching for Home*, our innovative exhibit on homelessness in Colorado's past and present; broke ground at the phenomenal new Ute Indian

Museum in Montrose; awarded more than \$4 million in preservation grants; and were honored with a 2015 Leadership in History Award by the American Association for State and Local History for our programming around last year's *RACE: Are We So Different?* exhibit.

The History Colorado Center and our community museums went above and beyond to create amazing programs and exhibits in 2015. But our 2016 will be just as exciting, with many major milestones and celebrations.

In February we'll honor achievements in historic preservation and archaeology at the Stephen H. Hart Awards for Historic Preservation, which celebrate their thirtieth anniversary in 2016. For three decades, the Hart Awards have honored preservationists and archaeologists who have shown tremendous dedication to their communities. In August, we'll celebrate another milestone: the thirtieth anniversary of the Colorado Centennial Farms program, which to date has honored nearly 500 historic farms and ranches statewide.

But what's more, all of these exciting milestones rest under the national celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which established all states' State Historic Preservation Offices (known here as History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation) as well as the National Register of Historic Places, among many other federal and state programs to preserve important historic resources.

We'll be celebrating Preservation 50 all year long—from social media campaigns to on-site lectures and events—but there's no better way to honor historic preservation than getting out in your community and visiting historic places. January is a great time to start by attending the National Western Stock Show in Denver, which has some exciting news.

We're delighted to be a partner in the National Western Stock Show's new development, the National Western Center: a 130-acre world-class hub for lifelong learning, arts, entertainment, competition, and commerce, all while honoring the historic buildings at the complex that tell an adventurous story about western history. The new National Western Center will serve as a crowning marker for what partnerships can achieve to foster an appreciation of Colorado's past even as we build its future.

While we commemorate the milestones of our past this year, we're excited to create new opportunities that will bring Colorado history into the future through historic preservation and local partnerships. We welcome you to join the celebration.

Ann A. Pritzlaff, Chair, Board of Directors

New & On View

Denver

History Colorado Center (unless otherwise noted)

Extended Evening Hours!



The History Colorado Center is open till 9 P.M. on Tuesday, January 19, and Monday, February 15.

Searching for Home: Homelessness in Colorado History

On view now

In the 1880s, “Baby Doe” Tabor and her husband, Horace, were the wealthiest couple in Colorado. The global depression that destroyed their fortune threw the nation into economic upheaval. When Baby Doe died of exposure in a crude Leadville shack, her story exposed Coloradans to an uncomfortable truth: homelessness can happen to anyone.

Searching for Home invites you to consider Colorado’s long history of economic struggle and the complexities of an issue often reduced to stereotypes. Discover the challenges of homelessness and see how labels have changed the way we think about people experiencing it.

History Colorado staff developed *Searching for Home* with a Community Advisory Committee.

This exhibit is made possible by the support of a generous anonymous donor, Guaranty Bank and Trust, Housing and Homelessness Funders’ Collaborative, the Denver Foundation, and the Kenneth King Foundation.



Courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, X-29161

Pueblo

El Pueblo History Museum

EL MOVIMIENTO THE CHICANO MOVEMENT IN COLORADO

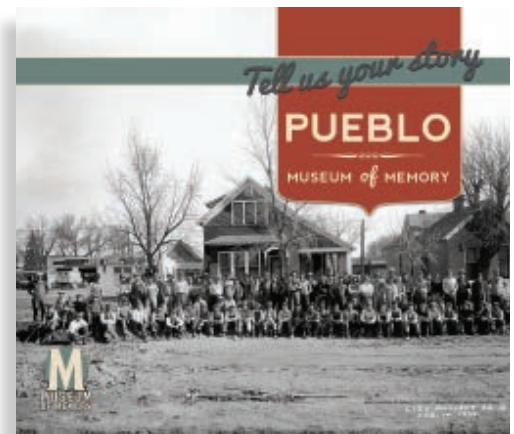
Opens Friday, January 22

El Movimiento illuminates the Chicano fight for justice and equality in Colorado in the 1960s and early '70s



through images, personal stories and artifacts. The exhibit is based on the popular ongoing exhibit at the History Colorado Center in Denver. History Colorado collaborated with community advisors throughout Colorado to create the exhibits.

Sponsored by AARP, Ready Foods, Inc., and Colorado State University-Pueblo



Courtesy Pueblo City-County Library District Special Collections

Museum of Memory

On view now

Museum of Memory is a public history project that preserves Pueblo’s stories. Community members can add memories to the Pueblo map, write and share stories, and describe the Pueblo neighborhoods they grew up in and live in now. As part of *Museum of Memory*, El Pueblo is developing tools to help people talk to their loved ones with memory loss.



2016 History Colorado Awards and Annual Meeting

Wednesday, February 3, 5:30 P.M.
History Colorado Center

Stephen H. Hart Awards for Historic Preservation
 Josephine H. Miles History Award
 Caroline Bancroft History Project Award
 History Colorado Annual Meeting

RSVP: 303/866-6524

Ute Indian Museum Celebrates Expansion

In December the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose celebrated the groundbreaking of a 3,350-square-foot expansion that will allow added capacity for event rentals, educational and program space, and a renewed exhibit on Ute culture and history. Originally built in 1956, the museum celebrates the history and the living culture of Colorado's longest continuous residents.

In 2013, the State of Colorado approved \$2.4 million to renovate the museum building. The exhibits, which are more than fifty years old, will be replaced with new, more relevant interpretation. History Colorado is raising private support for the exhibits and smaller projects beyond the scope of the building and has worked in consultation with the three Ute

tribes on the building design and exhibits. The expansion is designed by Colorado architect Daniel Gartner of Chamberlain Architects, in partnership with local general contractor PNCI Construction, Inc.

The new Ute Indian Museum will open in early 2017, with exhibits opening that summer.

Save the Date!



Members' Open House and Welcome Wagon

Friday, March 18

Whether you're new to History Colorado or you've been a member for years, this is a fun-filled evening for you to explore all the History Colorado Center has to offer. Watch for details in the March/April *Colorado Heritage*.

Smithsonian Affiliate Benefits

Did you know that when you're a History Colorado member at the Explorer level or higher you also become a member of the Smithsonian Affiliate Membership program?

Visit affiliations.si.edu to learn more about this perk!

Society 1879

History Colorado is excited to roll out Society 1879, which honors those individuals who include History Colorado in their estate plans. A spring luncheon will celebrate this group of special supporters. For more information about Society 1879, or to learn how to include History Colorado in your will, contact us at 303/866-4477 or development@state.co.us.



Attending the Ute Indian Museum groundbreaking on December 2 were (from left): Terry Knight (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe); Scott Lanham, PNCI Construction Company; Alden Naranjo (Southern Ute Tribe); Daniel Gartner, Chamberlain Architects; Ute Indian Museum director CJ Brafford; Lilly Twin (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe); Regina Lopez Whiteskunk (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe); Betsy Chapoose (Northern Ute Tribe, Uintah and Ouray Reservation); Chairman Manuel Heart (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe); History Colorado board member Charles Woolley; Montrose mayor David Romero; and Montrose County commissioner Ron Henderson. Photo by Lu Anne Tryrell.

New Online Resources!**Fifty-Eight Years of
*The Colorado Magazine***

By Sarah Gilmor, Reference & Outreach Librarian

In November 1923, the first issue of *The Colorado Magazine* was distributed to members of the State Historical and Natural History Society of Colorado—today’s History Colorado. As the inaugural issue’s first editorial explained, *The Colorado Magazine* would be “a regular publication of more ambitious character” than the irregularly published bulletin the Society had previously circulated. It would be “devoted to the interests of the Society, its departments, and its members, to the West in general, and to Colorado in particular.” For the next fifty-eight years, *The Colorado Magazine* published 1,300 articles on every imaginable subject, from archaeology and art to folk legends, regional history, and biography. In 1981, the magazine’s title changed to *Colorado Heritage*.

Colorado Magazine articles are of interest not only to scholars, but to anyone curious about Colorado history. Back issues have always been available in our Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center, but now this content is readily available to researchers worldwide. We are pleased to announce that all articles from *The Colorado Magazine* (1923–1980) are now available online.

The digitizing process began with former technical assistant Kasey Brooks. Although the Library & Research Center held scans of many back issues of *The Colorado Magazine*, the format and quality were not ideal. Brooks spearheaded the effort to create new digital scans that meet today’s standards. The PDFs now available online can be freely accessed on any computer or mobile device and can also be keyword-searched or downloaded.

“*The Colorado Magazine* is an incredibly rich resource, featuring hundreds of articles about Colorado people, places, and events, sometimes even written by the folks who’ve become an integral part of the state’s history,” says Laura Ruttum Senturia, director of the Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center. “From Baby Doe Tabor to Tom Tobin and the Espinosa Brothers to the blizzard of 1913, it’s all in the magazine. And bear in mind, they’re just the tip of the iceberg of our research collections!”

Our goal in making this content available online is to increase its utility both for longtime members of History Colorado and for new researchers, including students and visitors outside of Colorado. Since the articles will be discoverable through search engines like Google, their potential audience has been expanded to anyone with access

to the Internet. Researchers around the world can now access the full run of issues at their convenience.

To browse issues online, go to: HistoryColorado.org/researchers/Colorado-Magazine. If you’re searching for articles on a particular topic, you can use our online catalog, at: HistoryColorado.org/researchers/library-catalog, to pinpoint specific issues, articles, and page numbers. For additional help, contact our Library & Research Center staff at cosearch@state.co.us or 303/866-2305.

*Come in for a workshop on using
the Colorado Historic Newspapers
Collection in your own research
on January 30. See page 8.*

***The Colorado Historic
Newspapers Collection***

By Kerry Baldwin, Serials Manager

Great news! The Colorado State Library has launched a new website for the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, at: ColoradoHistoricNewspapers.org. The website offers free online access to a database of more than 690,000 digitized pages of Colorado newspapers, primarily published between 1859 and 1923. Newspapers are often digitized from microfilm copies owned by History Colorado, which holds the largest collection of Colorado newspapers on microfilm.

The new website improves the collection’s searchability, giving researchers better tools to find specific information. Some of the new features include improved optical character recognition (OCR), the ability to create user accounts to save and share content, and a crowdsourcing text correction interface.

The website lets K–12 students engage with history as it was originally recorded and interpreted. The collection is also an excellent resource for genealogical research. Newspapers often serve as the record for birth, marriage, and obituaries, and may also contain stories about families that cannot be found anywhere else.

The Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center staff is happy to help you navigate the new website. For information about visiting and research assistance, go to: HistoryColorado.org/researchers/stephen-h-hart-library-and-research-center.

To find out how communities raise funds to digitize their local historic newspapers and add content to CHNC, contact Leigh Jeremias, digital collections coordinator at the Colorado State Library: ljeremias@coloradovirtuallibrary.org.



History Colorado's Online Exhibits

In 2014, History Colorado received an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant to create five online exhibits for students. The exhibits tackle topics ranging from the fur trade in the West to Japanese internment in World War II. One of the exhibits explores African American history in Colorado. Many students learn about the Civil Rights Movement in the South, but they rarely learn about struggles for equality in Colorado. In the online exhibit, students virtually explore Denver's Five Points neighborhood and the Lincoln Hills resort community, putting local stories into the larger context of the Civil Rights Movement. When they finish exploring, they can take an online quiz and earn a digital badge. See the exhibits at: HistoryColorado.org/educators/online-exhibits-digital-badges.



February is
African American
History Month!

FAMILY FUN

Denver

Tiny Tots Inside the Orchestra

History Colorado Center
Saturday, February 20, 9:30 to 10:30 A.M., 10:45 to 11:45 A.M.
Tiny Tots gets kids inside the music by seating the audience on the floor and surrounding them with a 30-piece orchestra. Designed for kids six and under, this one-of-a-kind program gives young ones the chance to interact with the conductor and musicians, and learn about instruments in a casual, fun environment.

Register with Inside the Orchestra, at: insidetheorchestra.org/tiny-tots-events

Members' Behind-the-Scenes Collection Tours!

History Colorado Center
Tuesday, February 16, 1 to 1:30 P.M.
Ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at the museum? Join us to learn how our collections are stored and cared for. Visit rarely seen storage and processing spaces and get an up-close-and-personal view of artifacts. Preregister for this exclusive opportunity! Make a day of it and enjoy the daily lunch special in Café Rendezvous. *(Limited to 12 people)*
Free for members! Register at: h-CO.org/BTSfebruary



An Afternoon into the Past for Home School Students

Byers-Evans House Museum
Tuesday, January 12, 10 A.M. to noon
We invite home school students to participate in a fun, hands-on history program about life in Denver during World War I. The program is designed for third and fourth grade students. Students \$2.50 *(accompanying adult free)*

Reservations required: jillian.allison@state.co.us
or 303/620-4933

Low-Sensory Morning

History Colorado Center
Saturday, January 16, 8 to 10 A.M.
Free admission *(space limited)*
The History Colorado Center is happy to open its doors to families who prefer a lower-sensory environment. The museum will be closed to the general public, attendance limited, and the sound in exhibits turned down. Come and enjoy!
RSVP required; contact Shannon Voirol at shannon.voirol@state.co.us or 303/866-4691.

Out of School Day Camp

History Colorado Center
Monday, January 4, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Ages 6–12
The History Colorado Center offers a full day of exploration for students still out of school. We'll see artifacts from the museum's collection, analyze historic photographs, go behind the counter at the Café Rendezvous, use historic tools and create a memento from our day!
Members \$45, nonmembers \$50
Reservations required: 303/866-2394

Valentine's Day Tour and Tea

Byers-Evans House Museum

Saturday, February 13, 12:30 to 2:30 P.M.

Tour the historic home, followed by an afternoon tea with tea sandwiches, scones, fresh fruit and desserts.

Members \$20, nonmembers \$25, children \$18

Reservations required: 303/620-4933

FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES at the History Colorado Center!

These are just highlights, and performances are subject to change, so check HistoryColoradoCenter.org for updates.

Free with admission.

MUSEUM THEATER AND PERFORMANCES

Meet Mountain Man Doc Grizzly

Saturdays, January 9 and February 6, 10:30 A.M. to 2 P.M.—

Ever wonder how the fur trappers in early Colorado lived?

Doc Grizzly demonstrates tools of the trade.

Meet William Bent and Ceran St. Vrain

Saturdays, January 16 and

February 27, 11:30 A.M. to

1:30 P.M.—The founders of

Bent's Fort share stories about life in early Colorado.

Meet a Buffalo Soldier

Saturday, January 23, 11:30 A.M.

to 2 P.M.—Meet Buffalo Soldier

Sergeant Jack Hackett.

Ditch Boss

Saturday, January 30, 11:30 A.M.

to 2 P.M.—Stop by the irrigation gate in the *Living West*

exhibit and meet Luis Francisco Valdez as he leads

a community meeting about sharing water in the

San Luis Valley. Actor Angel Vigil portrays the *majordomo*

(ditch rider) as you explore the importance of water and

the history of Hispano settlers in southern Colorado.

Meet Thomas Jefferson

Saturday, February 13, 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M.—Celebrate

President's Day with Thomas Jefferson himself.



Fort Garland

Fort Garland Museum

A Fort Garland Tall Winter's Tale: The Ghost's Story

Saturday, February 20, 2 to 4 P.M.

The Fort Garland Players perform an original two-act play by Pamela Burns. The afternoon includes live music and refreshments.

Adults \$15, children free. Information: 719/379-3512



ADULT PROGRAMS

Denver

COLLECTIONS & LIBRARY PROGRAMS at the History Colorado Center

Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center

Members \$4, nonmembers \$5 (unless otherwise noted)

RSVP required. Call 303/866-2394, or register online!

All programs require a minimum number of registered

participants and may be canceled if the minimum is not met 48 hours ahead of time. Early registration recommended!

Treasures from the Archives

Saturday, January 16, 10:15 to

11:30 A.M.—History Colorado's archival

collections include letters, diaries

and personal records from some of

Colorado's most famous (and infamous)

individuals. In this hands-on workshop,

you'll take an in-depth look at original

documents from the Tabor family,

William Jackson Palmer, Ned Wynkoop, George Bent and

others—who made history big and small.

Tiny Library Concert: Thunder & Rain

Tuesday, January 19, 7 to 8:30 P.M.—History Colorado is

excited to welcome folk musicians Thunder & Rain to the Tiny

Library Concert stage! Hailing from Golden, Thunder & Rain

(thunderandrainmusic.com) make traditional American music

more accessible to modern ears. Their first album, *Holler Out*,

encompasses the group's love of acoustic instrumentation, pop

sensibility and arrangements that lean on vocal harmonies.

The Tiny Library Concert series at History Colorado features

acoustic shows by Colorado musicians in the unusual and intimate setting of the Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center. For ages 6 and up! Members \$10, nonmembers \$15.

Newspaper Research at the Stephen H. Hart Library & Research Center

Saturday, January 30, 10:15 to 11:15 A.M.—Historic newspapers are great sources of information for historians, genealogists and anyone else who enjoys coming face-to-face with the past. Join our reference librarian to learn more about our newspaper collection and how to use it in your own research. We'll pay special attention to Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection's new interface!

Collections Close-Ups: Love Letters

Saturday, February 13, noon to 2 P.M.

Love is in the air! Stop in and explore romantic items from our archives, including Valentines, marriage proposals and love letters.

COLORFUL COLORADO at the History Colorado Center

Members \$4, nonmembers \$5 (unless otherwise noted)
Meet Colorado authors, History Colorado curators and others. Call 303/866-2394 to reserve your spot, or register online!
All programs require a minimum number of participants and may be canceled if the minimum is not met 48 hours ahead of time. Early registration recommended!

MEET THE LEGENDS
Colorful Colorado Series

Ralph Carr: Colorado's Controversial Governor

Monday, February 8, 1 to 2 P.M.—Join us for a first-person portrayal of former Colorado Governor Ralph Carr by historian Jim Wilkins. Carr served as the state's twenty-ninth governor and is noted for his staunch defense of American citizens of Japanese descent during World War II, a position that was ultimately detrimental to his political career. Wilkins illuminates his story to remind us that this era of fear and bigotry in American history must never be repeated.



10028117

Isabella Bird: A Lady's Life . . .

Monday, March 28, 1 to 2 P.M.—Meet Isabella Bird, pioneering adventurer of the female persuasion who rocked the late nineteenth century with her independent world travels and strong opinions, all captured in her writings. Bird is brought to life by Rocky Mountain National Park ranger Sue Langdon. This first-person account will look at Bird's 800-mile journey through the Rocky Mountains in 1873, when Bird reached Estes Park and ascended Longs Peak. You'll also learn more about Isabella Bird's life before and after the publishing of her fourth book, *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*.



10026773

The Buffalo Bill Experience

Monday, April 11, 1 to 2 P.M.—Colorado-based Buffalo Bill reenactor “Gunny” Jeff Norman guides audiences down the untamed frontier trail that was Buffalo Bill Cody’s life, in a costumed living history presentation that’s as entertaining as it is informative, colorfully blending humor, drama and little-known historical anecdotes. The show is chock full of all the wagon train driving, Army scouting, Indian fighting and Pony Express riding adventures that made Buffalo Bill Cody an American icon, all the while gathering legendary friends like Wild Bill Hickok, Kit Carson, Annie Oakley, General George Armstrong Custer and Sitting Bull along the way.



10047789

Baby Doe: A Colorado Legend Lives On

Monday, May 9, 1 to 2 P.M.—Mythologized in Colorado lore, Elizabeth McCourt “Baby Doe” Tabor not only intrigued Coloradans during her lifetime, but has also captivated succeeding generations. The subject of books, documentaries and an opera, her classic rags-to-riches-to-rags story epitomizes the boom-and-bust cycle that defines Colorado history. Historian Debra Faulkner portrays Tabor in her later years in a first-person presentation, telling the tales of triumphs, hardships and hidden details that bring deeper clarity, empathy and understanding to this clichéd “homewrecking floozy” of popular lore.



10025775

Special Documentary Preview: *Keep a Light in Your Window*

Monday, February 22, 1 to 2 P.M.

Keep a Light in Your Window highlights the life of Daddy Bruce Randolph, a social entrepreneur with a heart of gold. At age 63, he opened a restaurant in Denver and began giving away food to those who were less fortunate. Even though Daddy Bruce died broke, he accomplished a lot in his life. Bruce Randolph Avenue and Bruce Randolph School were named in his honor. His legacy continues with one of the largest feedings in the country every Thanksgiving season.

FWD: Searching for Home

At the History Colorado Center

Join community leaders for a series of evenings with film, theater and conversations examining civic issues of Colorado’s past and present.



Members and students \$4, nonmembers \$5
303/866-2394

Called to Serve? Faith Communities and the Response to Homelessness

Tuesday, January 19, 6 to 7:30 P.M.

Amanda Henderson of the Interfaith Alliance leads a panel discussion on the faith-based community and its relationship with people experiencing homelessness.

SPARK! Cultural Programming for People with Memory Loss

History Colorado Center
Monday, February 8, 2–3:30 P.M.

In partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association, SPARK! programs invite people with early to mid-stage memory loss and their care partners to enjoy interactive experiences in a welcome environment.

Specially trained educators engage participants in lively discussions, social engagement and multisensory activities. Programs SPARK! the minds of participants with conversation, creativity and engagement. Enjoy a guided tour through some of the most beloved exhibits at the History Colorado Center. Program is free, but space is limited and registration is required: 303/813-1669.



Tours & Treks

Take a Guided Trip Into the Past (To register call 303/866-2394)

Let's Get Wet! Green River and Lodore Rafting Adventure

Friday, June 24 to Sunday, June 26

Register by May 27

History Colorado is proud to team up once again with Adrift Adventures to offer an amazing four-day whitewater rafting adventure on the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument and the Gates of Lodore. You'll taste action, excitement, geology and the history of the Green River! You'll cavort with cowboys, outlaws, famous explorers and more! Explore it all alongside historian Dr. Andrew Gulliford, guest speaker from Fort Lewis College. Bring the kids and let's get wet!

Members \$849, nonmembers \$909, children 7-12 \$650

Space is limited. Information and reservations:

Adrift Adventures, 1-800-824-0150.



Adrift Adventures

Green River and Lodore Rafting Adventure

See a complete listing of History Colorado Tours and Treks in the booklet you received with this *Colorado Heritage*.



Paddles Up! Gunnison River Canoe Trek

Friday, August 19 to Sunday, August 21

Register by August 1

History Colorado teams up again with Centennial Canoe Outfitters for this exciting trip through a wild and remote area with fascinating history. As you journey along the Gunnison River, historian Dr. Andrew Gulliford of Fort Lewis College will share his stories of the colorful characters who helped shape the western landscape. There will be time for day hikes to see Ute Indian rock art and majestic walls of red sandstone. The river is gentle with occasional small rapids to add spice to the journey. Camping along the river's banks and exploring a deep box canyon will surely leave you in awe.

Members \$409, nonmembers \$469, children 6-12 \$339

Space is limited. Information and reservations:

Centennial Canoe Outfitters, 1-877-353-1850.

NEW TOUR! A Day in Boulder: Tempting Teas and Historic Heights

Thursday, January 14, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Celebrate winter with two things that are guaranteed to warm your heart—steaming teas and stupendous views! That's right: it's a tour of Boulder, nestled below the Flatirons. From the lushness of the Dushanbe Teahouse to the sensations—both sharp and subtle—at Celestial Seasonings, we'll warm you from top to toe. We'll explore the history of the city, from the refinement of Mapleton to the learned ways of the Chautauqua,



Centennial Canoe Outfitters

Gunnison River Canoe Trek

and above it all, the majesty of the mountains. What a backdrop for a fine winter's day. Now let's pour!

Members \$75, nonmembers \$90

(Price includes transportation, lunch, tea and all admissions.)

For Chocolate Lovers: Tea at the Castle Marne

Friday, February 12, 1 to 3 P.M.

Thinking of a romantic getaway? Castle Marne is an oasis of refinement, comfort and charm nestled in the very heart of the city. It nearly met the wrecking ball in 1989. Come see this tremendous preservation success story! Tea and scones, surely scrumptious, will be made the richer by the luster of chocolate, chocolate, chocolate! With chocolate, tea and a tour of this grand Denver dame, we'll all be in the mood for love!

Members \$53, nonmembers \$63

(Provide your own transportation to starting location.

Price includes tea, chocolate soup and a rich assortment of chocolate treats.)

Forgotten Denver: Southeast Suburbia by Bus

Saturday, February 20, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Rising like the sun to the east of Denver are cities moving without hesitation into the future. Their histories are diverse and these cities are reinventing themselves around us. Southern Aurora, Parker, Centennial and more join us as we explore this area growing rapidly away from the bustle of downtown. There is far more than you might think, if you have someone there to show you where to look! That's why we're here, so join us for a trip southeastward.

Members \$39, nonmembers \$50

(Price includes bus transportation and a break for lunch on your own dime.)



Museum Sampler: Adams County by Bus

Saturday, February 27, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Adams County's contribution to the history of the Denver region has been varied and fascinating. Looking more to the sun and the fertile prairies than to the mountains, Adams County has stories that speak to the strength of the land, the importance of the train and the power of water to build as well as destroy. In addition to some drive-bys to inform your future exploration, we'll see the Adams County Historical Museum and the Commerce City Heritage and Cultural Center.

Members \$49, nonmembers \$60

(Price includes bus transportation, all museum admissions and box lunch.)

Ireland Forever! An Irish Tour of Denver

Sunday, March 13, noon to 5 P.M.

Join Tom "Dr. Colorado" Noel and Dennis Gallagher for an annual tradition—newly revamped with many sites not on previous tours! We'll start with libations and a Celtic meal and enjoy a slideshow on Colorado's landmark Irish people and buildings. Afterward, board our deluxe coach for a grand driving tour by such places as the Mullen family residences, Mary Coyle Chase house, Campion mansion site, St. Patrick's Church for a visit with the Sisters and their holy cookies, and much more! You'll have the opportunity to get a signed copy of our hosts' book, *Irish Denver*.

Members \$59, nonmembers \$75; *Irish Denver* \$22

(Price includes one drink ticket, a light lunch, all guides and bus transportation.)



Adams County by Bus



An Irish Tour of Denver

2015–16 Lecture Series

The World Around Us

At times, the ideas, people and reputation of Colorado transcend its borders and engender transformative changes in the wider society. Other times, outside forces influence Colorado in ways large and small. The 2015–16 lecture series uncovers Colorado's place, in *The World Around Us*. Our annual speaker from the Smithsonian will provide an exciting object-based history of the United States. We'll consider what Colorado's endangered prairie ecosystems and native environment can gain from an influential new conservation project in Montana. And we'll close with the legacy of the National Historic Preservation Act on our state.

All lectures are at 1 and 7 P.M. at the History Colorado Center. Call 303/866-2394 for more information.

Sponsored by the Walter S. Rosenberry III Charitable Trust



NEW DATE! The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects

Monday, January 11

The Smithsonian Institution's Under Secretary for History, Art, and Culture Dr. Richard Kurin presents his new book, *The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects*, a literary exhibition of objects from across the Smithsonian's museums that offers a marvelous new perspective on the history of the United States. Kurin will bring objects to life, establishing their connections to American history, explaining surprising ways objects found their way into the Smithsonian collection, and helping us reconsider objects we think we know and understand.



Emily Griffith Education: A Century of Hands-On Hope

Monday, February 15

Emily Griffith began her Opportunity School in Denver a century ago. But her influence on society has reached far beyond the city's borders. Biographer Debra Faulkner portrays Griffith in a first-person presentation, telling the story of her revolutionary school from the visionary educator's point of view. By founding one of the first schools in the world to offer free public education to adults, Griffith empowered people of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances to improve their lives. The legacy continues to this day.

Courtesy Library of Congress.

Photo by Alexander Gardner, LC-B817-7929

Calendar

JANUARY

4 Monday

OUT OF SCHOOL DAY CAMP
History Colorado Center
See page 6.

5 Tuesday

LAST OBJECT UNVEILED FROM
WHO KNEW!? EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN
History Colorado Center
See page 1.

11 Monday

SMITHSONIAN'S HISTORY
OF AMERICA IN 101 OBJECTS
History Colorado Center
See page 12.

12 Tuesday

WORKSHOP FOR
HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS
Byers-Evans House Museum
See page 6.

14 Thursday

BOULDER TEAS AND
HISTORIC HEIGHTS TOUR
See page 10.

16 Saturday

TREASURES FROM THE
ARCHIVES WORKSHOP
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

LOW-SENSORY MORNING
FOR FAMILIES
History Colorado Center
See page 6.

19 Tuesday

TINY LIBRARY CONCERT:
THUNDER & RAIN
History Colorado Center
See page 7.

FWD: SEARCHING FOR HOME
History Colorado Center
See page 9.

20 Wednesday

MEMBERS-ONLY LAST CHANCE
TO SEE *TOYS OF THE '50S, '60S
AND '70S*
History Colorado Center
See page 1.

*Explore the sights and sensations of Boulder
on Thursday, January 14. See page 10.*



22 Friday

EL MOVIMIENTO OPENS
El Pueblo History Museum
See page 3.

24 Sunday

LAST DAY TO SEE *WHO KNEW!?
EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN*
History Colorado Center
See page 1.

30 Saturday

NEWSPAPER RESEARCH
WORKSHOP
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

31 Sunday

LAST DAY TO SEE *TOYS OF
THE '50S, '60S AND '70S*
History Colorado Center
See page 1.

FEBRUARY

3 Wednesday

HISTORY COLORADO AWARDS
AND ANNUAL MEETING
History Colorado Center
See page 4.

11 Thursday

CHOCOLATE LOVER'S
TEA AT CASTLE MARNE
See page 11.

13 Saturday

VALENTINE'S DAY TOUR AND TEA
Byers-Evans House Museum
See page 7.

COLLECTIONS CLOSE-UPS:
LOVE LETTERS
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

15 Monday

EMILY GRIFFITH EDUCATION
LECTURE
History Colorado Center
See page 12.

16 Tuesday

MEMBERS' COLLECTION TOURS!
History Colorado Center
See page 6.

20 Saturday

TINY TOTS INSIDE THE ORCHESTRA
History Colorado Center
See page 6.

THE GHOST'S STORY PLAY
Fort Garland Museum
See page 7.

FORGOTTEN DENVER:
SOUTHEAST SUBURBIA BY BUS
See page 11.

23 Tuesday

SMITHSONIAN SCREENING:
THE HAMMER OF HANK AARON
History Colorado Center
See page 8.

27 Saturday

MUSEUM SAMPLER:
ADAMS COUNTY BY BUS
See page 11.



Courtesy Boulder Dushanbe Tea House

Macedonia Baptist Church: A Modern Landmark Home for Civil Rights

BY ASTRID LIVERMAN, PH.D.,
NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTER COORDINATOR

February is
African American
History Month!

Founded in 1917, the African American congregation of Macedonia Baptist Church in Denver has played a vital community role at its Modernist church since 1963. Constructed in 1954 by Denver architects Harlan E. Rathbun and Ralph D. Peterson, the church building exemplifies mid-century Modern design with art glass, brick construction, ribbon windows, and dominant horizontality. Peterson also designed Calvary Temple on University Boulevard.

Originally built for the predominantly white Galilee Baptist Church, the building's sale to Macedonia highlighted a widespread urban trend: relocation of white communities—so-called “white flight”—to the suburbs. The trend accelerated when the U.S. Supreme Court ordered school desegregation in 1973 following *Keyes v. School District No. 1, Denver, Colorado*, in which Latino and African American parents in Park Hill sued the school board, alleging a deliberate racially segregated system. This forced integration unintentionally resulted in de facto segregation as white families simply removed themselves from the city school systems.

Macedonia has long been at the forefront of the civil rights movement. On the occasion of its ninetieth anniversary in 2007, Electa Draper of *The Denver Post* wrote: “For 90 years, Macedonia Baptist Church has been more than a house of worship. It has been Denver’s hearth for the burning conviction that all souls are equal.” In a context where Mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton (1923–44) was active in the Ku Klux Klan, Denver pioneers organized, as early as World War II, challenges to segregated restaurants—including the Brown Palace. Activists were effectively engaging in “sit-ins” before common use of that strategy. Churches, including Macedonia, were a point of organization, community, and solidarity.

The church has often hosted national speakers as a source of inspiration for the local community. Reverend Joseph Griffin was a personal friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who spoke at Macedonia on January 26, 1964. Other speakers have included the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr.; Coretta Scott King; Rosa Parks; Denver’s first African American mayor, Wellington Webb; Arie Taylor, the first African American woman elected to the Colorado State House of Representatives; U.S. Representative Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to Congress; and Dr. Ralph Abernathy, founding member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Macedonia has also hosted the NAACP, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and CORE. Current Denver Mayor Michael Hancock is a former congregation member.

In 1970, Denver renamed a stretch of 32nd Avenue, including that fronting Macedonia, as “Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.” Macedonia Baptist Church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 6, 2015.



New Listings

In the National Register of Historic Places and Colorado State Register of Historic Properties

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation.

National Register of Historic Places

Old North End Historic District (Amendment)

Colorado Springs

This historic district was amended to incorporate the district's architectural significance. Such noted architects as Elizabeth Wright Ingraham, Thomas MacLaren, and Nicolaas Van Den Arend designed many of the buildings. Various architectural styles exist in the district; in many houses the southern side, which receives the greatest sun exposure, contains the most frequently used living spaces, such as the living room and dining room.

Hayden Co-Operative Elevator Company

Hayden

This structure is a good example of a rural grain elevator with wood-frame studded



construction. From its opening in 1917, the elevator bolstered the local agricultural economy by providing a variety of services and goods to area farmers. It is an important representation of the agricultural, economic, and engineering history of early twentieth-century Routt County.

State Register of Historic Properties

Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad Coach No. 280 (Amendment)

Boulder/Golden

This amendment reflects a move of the coach car from Boulder to Golden.

Good to Know

National or State Register listed properties may be eligible for investment tax credits for approved rehabilitation projects. Listed properties may also be eligible to compete for Colorado State Historical Fund grants. These grants may be used for acquisition and development, education, and survey and planning projects. The next nomination submission deadline is June 3. For information, call 303/866-3392.

For more about these and all National and State Register properties in Colorado, go to www.HistoryColorado.org/oaHP/national-and-state-registers.

Knights of Columbus Hall

Colorado Springs

Architect Thomas MacLaren designed this 1928 Mission-style building, used not only by the Knights of Columbus but by other organizations and for public events. From 1937 to 1977 the building served as the first home to the Pioneer Museum. Today it is owned by the Pikes Peak Library District.

Garcia School

Garcia

This circa-1913 school is one of only a few adobe buildings remaining in what was once Plaza de los Manzanares, a settlement in the San Luis Valley dating to 1849. The school closed in 1963 but later served as a community library and Head Start program. The school

is a rare example of a Territorial Adobe rural school, which maintains its architectural integrity and meets the registration requirements of the *Rural School Buildings in Colorado* Multiple Property Documentation Form

Greeley Ice and Storage Building

Greeley

This 1930/1939 ice manufacturing and storage facility provided the city of Greeley and surrounding areas with manufactured ice and cold storage for meat, poultry, and beverages, as well as storage for furniture, furs, and other items. The company supported area agricultural interests by supplying ice for railroad and truck transport of meat and produce.

Do you know this building?

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Where is it? | 2. When was it built? | 3. What significant person worked/lived here? |
| a) Breckenridge | a) ca. 1869 | a) Edwin Carter |
| b) Denver | b) ca. 1881 | b) Justina Ford |
| c) Greeley | c) ca. 1890 | c) Hiram S. Holly |
| d) Holly | d) ca. 1907 | d) Nathaniel Meeker |

Answers on page 32



THE SISTERS OF ST. ANNE AND THEIR TIMES

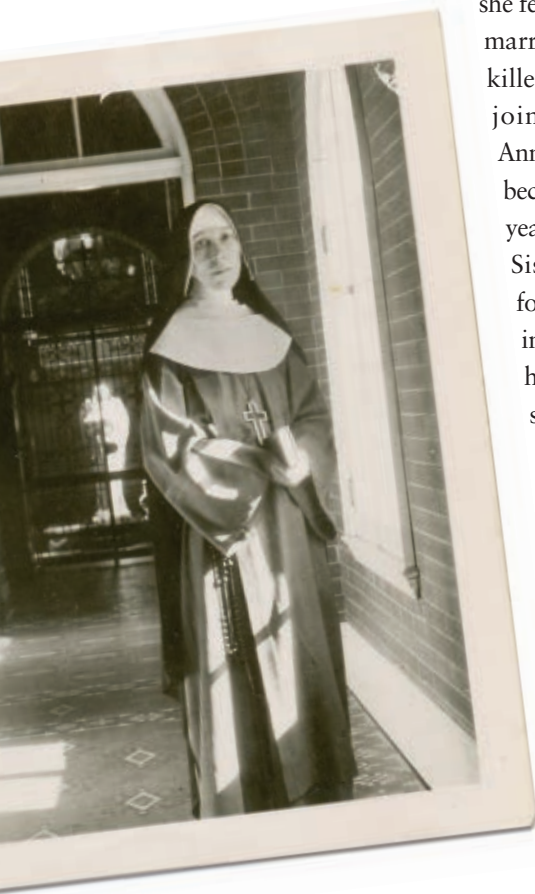
BY THE REV. MERRIE NEED

In April 1929, using a few of the last, cheap one-way tickets originally intended for homesteaders, three Episcopal Sisters of the Order of St. Anne arrived by train in Denver. The Rev. Neil Stanley of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at 2015 Glenarm Place welcomed them, arranging for their housing in a rental home across the street from his church.

Mother Noel, the appointed leader of these Sisters, originally came from England. This woman, who had once been named Miss Whittle, left the novitiate to train as a nurse in order to serve during World War I. While free from vows,

she fell in love and was to be married, but that same war killed her fiancée. Whittle joined the Order of St. Anne after the war, and she became Sister Noel. A few years later she and another Sister founded a house for the Sisters of St. Anne in the Virgin Islands. In her eighth year there, she fell ill; her doctors expected her to die. The Order moved her to the sister house in Kingston, New York, a convent in a temperate climate, where, as she put it, "I refused to die."

Mother Noel at the Oakes Home in 1948



She recovered. Three years later the Reverend Fredrick Powell, Founding Father of the Order of St. Anne, sent Mother Noel to establish a new house for their order in Denver. Sister Cecile, Sister Isabel, and Sister Ellen accompanied Mother Noel in this venture.

The Order of St. Anne was a relatively new order that had been established in Boston. The Reverend Fredrick Cecil Powell with Mother Ethelred founded the Order of St. Anne, an Episcopal order for Sisters, in 1910. Father Powell had joined the Cowley Fathers in Oxford, England, in 1895. He was "professed" (took permanent vows) in 1898. In 1901 he came to the American Mission in Boston, and he became Superior of the American Province of the Society of St. John in Boston in 1915.

Both the Order of St. Anne and the Society of St. John grew out of the Oxford Movement, a wing within the Church of England. The Oxford Movement sought to return offices, or formal prayers, to the Church of England and its American counterpart, the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America. Supporters of the movement also favored elaborate vestments, weekly communion, and religious orders. All these rituals and institutions came from the Roman Catholic tradition but had been set aside by the Church of England following its Reformation. The two religious orders in the Boston area, one for men and the other for women, offered a life of service and prayer similar to the life of Roman Catholic sisters and brothers but within the Episcopal Church tradition. The singular mandate for the





The wards of St. Anne's in their new wing in 1947

*All photos courtesy
St. Anne's Episcopal School.*

Order of St. Anne was to serve children. Father Stanley of St. Andrew's Church in Denver also belonged to this movement and seems to have invited the Sisters to Denver in part to reinforce the goals of the movement within the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado.

Having arrived in Denver, Mother Noel expected financial support from St. Andrew's Church to sustain her and the other Sisters until they could become self-sufficient. However, in the midst of the Great Depression, the church had little money to spare. Within five weeks of their arrival, and under the auspices of two medical doctors associated with Children's

Hospital, Mother Noel arranged to provide convalescent care for children. Her young patients were too well to be in Children's Hospital yet too frail to go home. At that time, to the best of their knowledge, no other convalescent home for children existed in the state. The Sisters also brought in infants who had been given up for adoption and provided temporary care until new parents were found. Finally, they offered a place at their table, a bed, and a roof to children identified by the Denver Public Schools as severely undernourished. Meager government stipends and the generous support of a few wealthy individuals compensated these

services. Upon this financial foundation the children could thrive, and the frugal Sisters survived. Thus began a twenty-five-year period during which the Sisters provided for the needs of very young clients.

An infant with birth defects that doctors could not then repair was one of their very first patients. Because his parents could not care for him, Mother Noel and the Sisters provided nursing for him until his death a few months after his arrival. Though capable of single-minded dedication, Mother Noel also was a woman of compassion. She grieved for the child through art—by sculpting his image in clay. The sculpture became the baby Jesus for the nativity scene at Glenarm Place and is the image St. Anne's Episcopal School continues to use in its annual Christmas display.

Very soon, the Sisters also rented a second house next door to their first residence on Glenarm Place to provide additional room for more young clients. Their endeavors quickly earned the recognition of the Junior League, some of whose prominent members were also parishioners of St. Andrew's. The Junior League in Denver owned property at 2701 South York, where they had operated a "preventorium." In fact, this was an old farmhouse with a dormitory wing attached. It served a maximum of twenty patients at a time. On the property also stood a stable and one other building, probably an old carriage house, which served as a garage and storage shed.

Preventoriums gathered impoverished children into quarantine after they had been exposed to tuberculosis. The children born to wealthier families did not usually go to preventoriums because it was assumed that their families could afford to accommodate for their needs. Impoverished children, on the other hand, could expect to stay in such places for about three months to be made strong. Fresh air, good food, and exercise were thought to be the ways to keep the disease at bay. The two-story dormitory had a wall of windows on three sides to allow for vigorous flow of fresh air. By 1931, public health officials began phasing out preventoriums. Added to that, the Great Depression reduced the Junior League's financial resources. Furthermore, the league discovered that they could be more effective in strengthening children with good food and exercise by working through the schools. Thus, the Junior League offered their property for the Sisters to use in return for an annual rental of one dollar.

The Sisters and the children in their care moved from Glenarm Place to South York Street, renaming the facility "Saint Anne's Home." It was also known as "Saint Anne's

Convalescent Home," a name the Sisters later learned to avoid because it was easily confused with another institution, the Church Convalescent Home. For a year and a half, the Sisters used the property for the charitable care of children. In May 1932 the league offered to deed the whole property to the Order by putting the deed in trust for five years. If the Sisters continued to do as well as they already had, the land would be theirs. On the promise of this deed, the Sisters built a seven-room infirmary, now called "the cottage," to the south of the chapel.

In 1934, the Episcopal Bishop of Colorado asked Mother Noel to manage the nursing staff at the Oakes Home at 2825 West Thirty Second Avenue in north Denver. This place had functioned as a convalescent facility for elite tubercular patients but had lost clients in the economic downturn and now had been closed for five months. The bishop and trustees of the Diocese believed that Mother Noel could manage to keep the doors open with the annual income of \$6,000 from the Oakes Homes endowment, plus fees paid by wealthier patients, especially since some workers were Sisters who required no salary. Mother and the Sisters voted to accept the offer. The Sisters who were "life professed" (now four in number) moved from St. Anne's Home to the Oakes Home in August, and the Oakes Home itself opened on September 1. By the end of 1935, Mother reported that the Oakes Home averaged forty patients per day and was not in debt. Meanwhile, the novices of the Order and their novice mistress, Sister Cecile, resided back at the St. Anne's Home to supervise the care of children who were there.

Mother Noel had a long-term vision for St. Anne's Home, one that would accommodate fifty children. This required a new wing to the farmhouse and dormitory on the York Street property. Thus, she organized a group of laymen and laywomen into a committee to garner donations. Together they planned to put in a central heating plant, some large school rooms, a wing of two-bed rooms, and halls on both stories, which Mother Noel called "connecting cloisters," to run from the farmhouse to the new wing.

On February 8, 1936, a bitter cold snap and inadequate heating temporarily closed St. Anne's Home. All the children were transported to the Oakes Home within whose grounds was an empty home for nurses. This home was opened and heated for the children. The heating crisis lessened as the weather warmed. However, because of the extra room between the two facilities, the number of children in the Sisters' care increased. Infants and girls remained on the

Oakes property, and kindergarteners along with older boys returned to St. Anne's Home.

By May 1936, the Sisters had a feasible plan to pay for the building of the children's wing. It depended on borrowing money, using the value of the land as collateral. Mother's advisory council assured her that the amount borrowed would be paid back within two years. Mother Noel returned to the Junior League and asked for the deed that had been promised to them, even though only about three and half years of the five-year agreement had passed. The Junior League understood the Sisters' point, that putting so much capital into improving a property that the Sisters did not own made poor financial sense. Furthermore, something had to be done about the heating before the next winter. So, the Junior League gave the Sisters the deed to the York Street property.

When the Sisters had first moved to York Street in 1931, they converted the farm's stable first into an assembly hall and then into a chapel. They used the old farmhouse as their convent and subdivided and insulated the attached, two-story dorm unit to house the children. Now they intended to add a brand-new wing to the dormitory. They connected the new wing to the farmhouse and dormitory by building hallways on both levels. The hallways closed off the west wall of windows so the old dorms became more private and less drafty.

At the other end of the dormitory, they built a two-story corner building. A set of boys' and girls' bathrooms on both floors and a stairwell closed off the south-facing windows of the former dormitory. On the first floor of the corner building were two large rooms and an atrium. One large room on the second story overlooked what would become the east lawn. A couple of smaller rooms completed the corner building's second floor.

From that corner building, the Sisters extended a second story hall and third-story attic over the former stable with its

shed roof. (The stable's shed roof is still visible from within the chapel.) This second-story hall opened to several small, two-bed rooms. They also built a stairway to the attic and a ramp to the ground, which would serve as a fire escape for children in wheelchairs.

Sister Cecile, who accompanied Mother Noel when she arrived in Denver, recorded an incident from this construction period. She came upon Mother in mid-construction of the second and third story over the chapel. Mother Noel was gazing out a window, overlooking unplanted cornfields. The window had been framed but as yet held no glass. Sister Cecile assumed that Mother Noel was in despair over the cost overruns of the current project, costs that threatened to shut the whole project down. She was about to speak words of assurance to Mother, telling her it would be alright to stop the building for a while, but then Mother turned to her to announce, "When we finish building this wing, we need to start the planting of gardens here." That was the nature of her drive and her confidence in the advisory council.

Mother Noel and her lay committee finished the building in part by seeking donations for each individual bedroom. Plaques commemorating the donations remain, though today the rooms behind those doors are offices. At the end of 1937, Mother Noel wrote that they had the capacity to treat fifty children. With the work completed and a new furnace pumping warm air into the entire facility, all the children from the Oakes Home moved back into the Saint Anne's Home.

Soon, an insidious disease called polio, an Australian woman with courage of her convictions, and the eventual creation of a regional hospital system in the Rocky Mountain West altered the course of the history at the St. Anne's Home.

Poliovirus has been with humanity at least since early Egyptian times. It once thrived in water, land, and produce polluted by human waste. If ingested in a highly diluted form, such as in drinking water, the virus developed

A view of the main building in 1937 shows the new wing at left.



an immunity in most of its human hosts. However, with the proliferation of water treatment plants, Americans began drinking only clean water and the ingestion of the virus through means other than water grew much more dangerous. Ironically, clean water contributed to the years of polio outbreaks in Colorado and throughout the nation between 1936 and 1953.

Now polio was an elusive infection. Ninety-five percent of those who swallowed the virus never fell ill. However, they did host it and deposited more of the virus back into the environment wherever waste treatment was inadequate. Of the five percent of those who experienced their infection, four percent experienced only severe flu-like symptoms and recovered within a week or two. Doctors, who focused on treating those symptoms, rarely discovered that polio was the actual origin of their patients' illness.

One percent of those who swallowed the virus experienced the high fever, paralysis, and/or difficulty breathing that resulted from the virus's attack on the nerve cells that conveyed messages from the brain to the muscles. If enough of these cells were destroyed by viral infestation, there was permanent injury. One in ten of those who experienced paralysis died. The survivors became the patients for St. Anne's Home—usually, but not always, after the acute infectious stage of the disease had passed. The first mention of a polio patient was in 1935, when the Sisters reported that \$273.11 was received from the President's Ball Fund for the treatment of a child with infantile paralysis at the Oakes Home.

The work of an Australian woman named Elizabeth Kenny inspired the Sisters' treatment of polio victims. Before World War I, Kenny worked as a public health aide posted in the Outback. She rode horseback on a remote circuit and reported by telegraph to her supervising doctor. Once she came across three children who had fallen ill with a high fever and muscles so cramped that the children's bones were in danger of bending. Because she was a long way from a telegraph, she had no one to ask about how to treat the children. However, she had heard that Aborigines wrapped similarly cramped muscles with hot, moist blankets. She did the same, tearing a woolen blanket into strips, dipping the strips in boiling water, cooling them to the point where the strips would not scald, and wrapping them around the afflicted limbs. The result was that the cramping and pain diminished enough that the children could sleep. When her patients' high fever subsided to the

point that she could safely leave their bedside, she rode her horse to the nearest telegraph to report the incident to her supervisor. That doctor diagnosed the disease as polio, told her there was no cure, and said she should continue to treat the symptoms. The doctor assumed she knew the standard treatment: applying splints to the afflicted limbs. However, Sister Kenny did not know the protocol and continued to apply heat, followed by massage

After two weeks, when the acute phase of the disease had passed, Kenny found that the muscles in the afflicted limbs were no longer rigid, but they did not respond to the patient's will. So she exercised the limbs to rebuild the muscles and then coached the children into trying to make the limbs move again. Eventually all three children could control and use their legs. When her doctor inquired how badly the disease had crippled her patients, Kenny replied that they were all fine. The doctor was amazed.

Up until Elizabeth Kenny's discovery, the standard treatment for the symptoms of polio was to encase the afflicted limb and/or spine in a plaster cast to keep the spastic muscles from bending the bones. Kenny believed those casts caused redeemable muscles to die, leaving the patient unnecessarily disabled.

After serving in World War I, where she earned the appellation "Sister" for being a nurse on the front, Sister Kenny fought the medical establishment in Australia to change their standard treatment of polio, but to no avail. Sister Kenny came to America in 1940 to continue that fight. The Mayo Clinic referred her to a hospital in Minneapolis that had wards full of polio victims. There she demonstrated her technique, and it was adopted. Eventually hers became the preferred treatment worldwide.

Locally, the Kenny Method was used during the outbreak of 1946. Red Cross volunteer nurses' aides with Children's Hospital were given twelve hours of training and 500 hours of supervised experience. They worked six-hour shifts applying the hot cloth. First, they boiled a strip of wool, ran it through a ringer three times, and laid it on the child's skin, wrapping it over the spastic muscles. Next, they applied a layer of oiled silk, which sealed in the moisture. Finally, they laid strips of dry wool on top of the silk to seal the heat within. They did this six times a day for each patient.

As early as 1942, the Sisters of St. Anne adopted Sister Kenny's treatment plan for care of children afflicted by polio who arrived at the home. The new focus of the Sisters' work then inspired additional construction projects at the St. Anne's Home.

In 1939, the Sisters agreed to manage the Oakes Home for another three years. During this period, they learned that certain clauses in the Oakes Home Trust prohibited the diocese from donating the land to anyone. In 1940 the amount of money that the trust fund provided decreased significantly, and the home slipped into minor but recoverable debt. Then, in 1941, the state ordered the Oakes Home to meet a new standard of isolation for tuberculosis patients. This required remodeling. The Sisters did not have the funds to modernize something as large as the Oakes Home, so they asked the trustees of the diocese to “vacate” their present agreement. The diocese graciously agreed and promised to refund the money that the Sisters had spent after the home stopped meeting its own expenses. On February 15, 1941, after six and half years at the Oakes Home, all the “professed” Sisters returned to St. Anne’s Home. This made a total of thirteen Sisters living in the farmhouse and the infirmary, which was now called the “cottage.” In 1943, the diocese sold the entire Oakes estate to the Order of the Poor of Sisters of St. Frances, who until then had resided in a portion of St. Anthony’s Hospital. This move freed space at St. Anthony’s for more patients and provided that Order not only with housing, but also with a spacious retreat center.

The Sisters of St. Anne then began a series of small construction projects at 2701 South York. Between 1941 and 1943, they remodeled an old garage into a four-bed isolation unit. West of the main building, they built a new garage, with a storeroom and quarters for a maintenance man. They extended the chapel to make an altar space for lay retreats and a room for a library. They also acquired six more acres adjacent to the property that the Junior League originally donated. In the following year, they added a bell tower and confessional, as well as a covered walkway to connect the lay chapel and cottage to the main building. They also converted the roof over the new chapel area into a sun porch for the children. With the money from a legacy, they started the gardens Mother Noel had visualized six years before. Finally, they built a room for visiting priests on the side of the cottage, connected to the chapel by the new walkway. Shortly after that, they enclosed that walkway so it was impervious to weather.

The pressure polio put on the health system in Colorado was felt even in the microcosm of the Sisters’ world. Mother Noel wrote in the 1943 annual report to the Diocese, “This year has our work with convalescent

children extended to meet the emergencies of infantile paralysis Because of a general epidemic of infantile paralysis cases, prevalent in Colorado, we were asked to take several for whom the crowded hospitals had no beds A generous gift . . . made possible the purchase of the special equipment needed for the Sister Kenny treatment, which has had excellent results. . . . The new isolation unit was filled to capacity.”

In July 1945, the Sisters secured a loan to build a new convent. With the convent soon finished, they were free to accept a gift from Henry A. Marr for the demolition of the original farmhouse to be replaced by a modern children’s convalescent wing. Construction began in August.

Once completed, the new wing’s first floor had two large rooms with a hall—wide enough for wheelchairs—connecting them to the kitchen area, the former dormitory space, and the hall leading to the older children’s wing. The second story offered four large rooms connected by a hall wide enough for wheelchairs. Off this hall they installed two bathrooms with raised tubs to make it easier for adults to bathe small children. The rooms were designed to contain three beds each and functioned like hospital wards for younger children.

In her 1947 report to the Diocese, Mother Noel explained why they opened before all the construction had been totally finished:

It was necessary to receive patients The Polio Epidemic struck early and the wing was set apart for this use, as the hospitals were getting overcrowded. On August 6, 1946, the first patient was brought in on the elevator; the very day the elevator was finally set in motion. The wing has been in continuous service for this purpose and is still full. Some patients have come immediately from their homes or out-of-town hospitals and others transferred from [local] hospitals. . . . Two polio hot pack machines were loaned us by the Polio Foundation, the second one being flown in from Boston 24 hours after being requested. The large three-bed wards had to accommodate four or five. The old connecting wing [that would be the Junior League dormitory] had been remodeled into a four-bed ward [on one floor] and a two-bed isolation room [on the other] All these were pressed into service. Through the National Polio Foundation and the March of Dimes, it has been possible to use our accommodations and facilities to utmost capacity during this emergency. The Red Cross came to our help with three nurses as the work was more than our Sisters and staff could cope with.



in 1929, St. Anne's served Colorado children whose parents were unable to independently arrange for their care. Here, a group of St. Anne's wards gather in the brand-new wing that opened in 1946, a peak year of the polio virus.

Between the two world wars, the national health care system operated mostly major hospitals in large cities and minor clinics in far-flung locations. Thus, if a child of a rural family fell ill with polio or any other major disease, the parents needed to transport the child into the closest city for both initial treatment and follow-up care.

William R. Robinson of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis came to Denver to encourage decentralizing polio care by offering equipment to communities willing to open local care centers. As he told the *Rocky Mountain News*, Denver had most of the state's capacity for handling the victims of this disease. "In the present outbreak," he said, "counties outside of Denver are reporting half the cases. . . . They are almost wholly without facilities, beds, special equipment, and trained personnel necessary to cope with infantile paralysis." Robinson added that the centralization of facilities in Denver "makes it necessary for patients to be transported into Denver, often over long distances for treatment and care

"Because of the time involved, many doctors do not wait for a complete diagnosis, before ordering patients sent to Denver," Robinson continued. "They are right in doing this. When life is at stake, we cannot afford to take chances."

Nearly one thousand cases of polio were reported in 1946, roughly three times the number reported in the two

other peak years of 1937 and 1943. The centralized hospital system of Denver struggled mightily to meet the need. In the beginning of the year, only Children's and Colorado General had isolation wards. In order to handle the children pouring out of isolation and into less regulated wards, Colorado General converted a hospital gymnasium into a fifty-bed ward. The nursing shortage was acute, and staff was "loaned" from other private hospitals that were not equipped to handle polio. However, as of August 1946, the *Rocky Mountain News* reported that there were still too few nurses to handle the new cases.

This shortage of skilled caregivers was the primary reason why the Sisters' help was so needed. In addition, impoverished rural families, who needed healthy children to help on the ranch or farm, often could not bring disabled children home. They simply could not provide for or afford the time for their child's special needs. For some parents, surrendering these children to the state's care was the best option. The Sisters in Denver became the official and permanent foster parents to one such child, a girl named Nancy Olson.

The hospital protocol during the polio epidemic was to bring a child into quarantine as soon as the disease was diagnosed. At Children's Hospital, newly admitted polio patients were in isolation for two weeks before moving into the ward. Thus, while the children endured high fever,

pain from muscle spasms, and the fear of dying, no family member or friend was allowed to visit or provide comfort. The child suffered in the presence of kind strangers. As a result, when children entered convalescent care, they needed not only to recover their physical strength and the use of their limbs, but also to recover from the trauma of forced separation from their families in their time of need. The spiritual and psychological damage of the hospital experience required as much healing as the healing of afflicted limbs.

The Sisters of St. Anne rose to that challenge. They used their gifts, time, and energy both to restore the children's health and to restore their happiness. They administered a grueling protocol of hot-pack care and massage. They followed up with medical appointments and occupational therapy routines for each patient. They changed the children's clothing and bedding, did the laundry, bathed the children, woke them up and put them to bed, cooked for them, and fed them. They helped them keep up with the schoolwork that their own schools sent them. They also supervised their play, created gardens and playgrounds and special events for them, and kept dogs for the sake of healing the whole child.

St. Anne's Home provided polio care at no cost to the parents. The state and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, better known as the March of Dimes, paid a minimal amount for the Sisters' work. Those funds, in combination with generous donations, kept the facility running. This certainly did not provide the Sisters with luxury items, but, of course, they would never have indulged in such frivolous things.

Mother Noel's own words best summarize what the Sisters of Saint Anne accomplished just before 1950: "We had polio victims in every room of the house," she told the *Rocky Mountain News* in 1971. "We had to give each child four hours of hot packs and four hours of massage. . . . It meant that we worked around the clock. There were 80 polio stricken children who were carried into St. Anne's. All but one walked out."

A visitor to the main building on campus today can see the remnants of the Sisters' work. The raised tubs, a fire escape ramp intended for wheelchairs, the elevator, and the plaques on the doors all remain. They speak volumes about the Sisters' hard work to those who know the story. All was done because these women perceived a call to love children. As they answered that call, they set a pattern of kindness and thoughtful service that etched itself into the present culture of the school, a school that eventually rose from that foundation of convalescent care. But the Sisters

themselves never sought glory. That sort of humility, along with their lack of personal possessions and sacrificial effort on the behalf of sick children, may seem amazing to this present generation. That is because this author and the others who serve children by working in the buildings the Sisters created know that they, with families and other distractions, can never reach the ideal of single-minded, devoted service that the Sisters possessed.

By 1950, decent hospitals and other care facilities began to populate Colorado's countryside, in part because polio taught Coloradans how much local care was needed. As the number of patients dropped at St. Anne's Home, Mother Noel began to formulate a new vision for the home's future. For starters, the Sisters would open a day school in the Main Building, where the ward-size rooms would make excellent classrooms. The effort was led by a new Sister to the order, one with several years of teaching experience. Her name had been Laura Nathan, but her new name within the order was Sister Irene. She would be the one to write the next major chapter in the story of the Sisters of Saint Anne.

For Further Reading

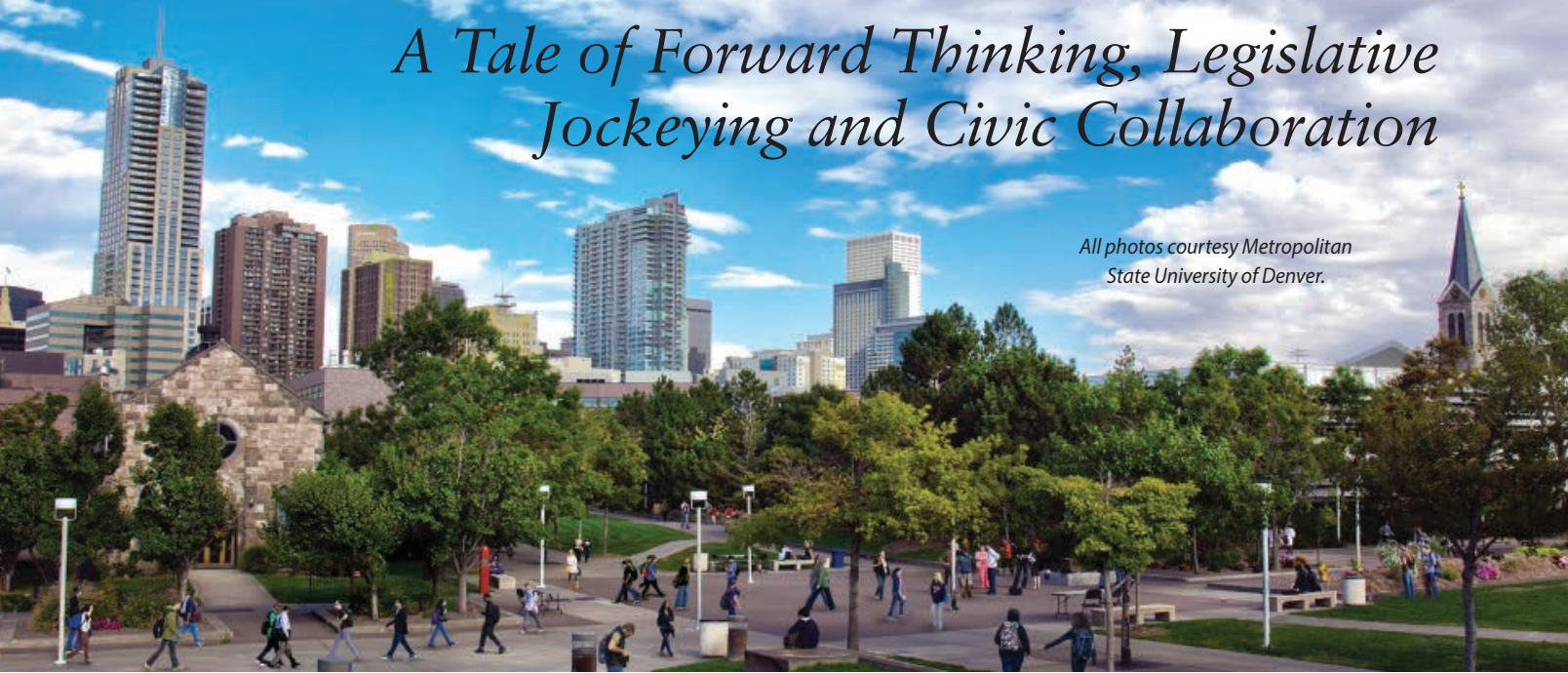
Alan Hecht's *Deadly Diseases and Epidemics: Polio, Second Edition* (New York: Chelsea House Pub., 2009) offers a pithy, clear explanation of the workings of Poliovirus and polio vaccines, with short biographies of famous people who contracted the disease, fought it, and are still fighting it. Peg Kehret's *Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio* (Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman and Company, 1996) is an autobiographical account of contracting polio at twelve, of isolation in a hospital ward and awakening to paralysis. The author describes her relation with the other children in a convalescent home, her therapy, and her eventual return to school and family life. David M. Oshinsky's *Polio: An American Story* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005) is the comprehensive story of polio in America, exploring every aspect of the disease and the campaign to end it.


THE REV. MERRIE NEED, a Colorado native, has served as Chaplain at St. Anne's Episcopal School since 2005. Born Merrie Anne Dunham, she received her bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of Colorado. She joined the Peace Corps in Liberia, where she met Harry W. Need III, whom she married in 1974 after her return to the United States. She taught reading in eight states and Thailand and was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1993.

HOW MSU DENVER BECAME

A Tale of Forward Thinking, Legislative Jockeying and Civic Collaboration

All photos courtesy Metropolitan State University of Denver.



 Metropolitan State College—today’s Metropolitan State University of Denver—went from blueprint to opening within four and a half months. Viewed from a fifty-year perspective, establishing this “instant college” actually took years of political wrangling that easily could have failed, leaving thousands of Colorado citizens without an opportunity for a college education.

It started with a research study. The Legislative Committee on Education Beyond High School launched a comprehensive survey of Colorado’s educational scene in early 1958. Two years later, Rep. Roy Romer (D-Denver) headed a subcommittee examining higher education in Denver, which had no public college or junior college;

the University of Colorado’s Denver Extension required students to spend their last two years on the Boulder campus to get a baccalaureate degree.

Rural lawmakers dominated the legislature, protecting colleges in their areas: Western State (Gunnison), Adams State (Alamosa), Fort Lewis (Durango), Colorado State College (Greeley), plus two universities, CU in Boulder and Colorado State University in Fort Collins. They didn’t want more institutions competing for funding.

Denver’s business community needed more, better-educated workers. Carson Reed (Class of ’83) described the dilemma of one executive at Martin, the aerospace company, in the winter 1987 issue of *The Metropolitan Magazine*: “[Harry] Temmer . . . could find janitors and he could find engineers, but in between the two he needed all kinds of trained technicians. In Colorado, he soon discovered, they just didn’t exist.”

More junior colleges wouldn’t solve Temmer’s problem, although many lawmakers liked the idea because communities, not the state, paid for them. Romer’s Subcommittee on Education Beyond High School completed work in late 1961. It reported a coming wave of high school graduates—

BY CAROLINE C. SCHOMP

Facing: In fifty years, the school now known as Metropolitan State University of Denver has graduated more than 85,000 students. Photo by Mark Woolcott.

the Baby Boom—would make the problem a crisis. Denver needed a public college.

Romer headed the Task Group on Education Beyond High School in Denver, to make specific recommendations. The Denver Chamber of Commerce, Public Service Company, Mountain States Telephone, and Martin submitted their own studies. “The Mountain States Telephone study showed that of the 116,000 jobs that would open up for new (male) workers between 1960–1970, 78 percent would require education beyond high school,” Reed wrote. Manufacturing had eclipsed agriculture as Colorado’s economic leader.

Romer’s taskforce reported that Denver’s population would triple in a decade, high schools would double their output, and 25 percent of Colorado’s rural high school graduates would move to Denver. The best solution would be a new four-year college in Denver, accepting students with high school diplomas or General Education Diplomas (GEDs). The CU Extension would be a “graduate center.”

The taskforce published its recommendations in February 1963. While in agreement publicly, its members remained divided internally, according to Reed. Some believed junior colleges offering technical training would work, since Denver had private four-year colleges (the University of Denver, Colorado Women’s College, Regis, and Loretto Heights), and CU was reasonably close.

Romer—now a state senator—disagreed. “I was interested in students who wanted a four-year college and the admission was open admission where you could come after you’d been on the job for three, four, five years and wanted to return and take a crack at higher education. Or for the person who couldn’t afford to depart his home or go to a place where it cost money to live. I wanted to open the door to the late bloomer because I thought higher education—education beyond high school—was absolutely important for everybody if they could get to it.”

CU reacted fast and hard even before the recommendations went public. Romer recalls that CU’s opposition “was a matter of turf.” Regarding CU’s Denver Extension,

“I thought that a university admission requirement [top third of graduating class], and the objectives of that institution were not compatible with the late bloomer, the person . . . that needed a more supportive and open-enrollment institution—similar to a junior college but at a four-year span. It became a very bitter fight.”

Romer’s law degree was from CU, and, “Some of my very good friends . . . took great offense that I would not just fold my cards and join the university turf . . . I’m a country guy and I’m pretty gritty and when I get an idea that I think is the right idea . . . I become more steely-eyed and my back stiffens. There were a lot of reasons for me to fight for this thing to survive.”

That fight lasted years. CU had support from Denver’s newspapers, which opposed open enrollment. The *Rocky Mountain News* reported that “Denver College Feared Mecca for Rejects” on December 2, 1962. Two weeks later *The Denver Post* editorialized, “State Junior College for Metro Area Better than New 4-Year School.”

Romer continued to campaign. Attorney General Duke Dunbar helped in January 1963 with an opinion that a four-year CU branch was constitutionally prohibited. In his first State of the State address, Gov. John Love requested another study to rule out duplication. Nevertheless, the Committee on Education Beyond High School voted to accept the taskforce’s recommendations for a

Denver college, clearing the way for a bill.

Robert Bowen (Class of ’71), former student body president and author of *The Vision, The Struggle: How Metropolitan State University of Denver Began*, theorized in an interview that “Romer was advocating a school . . . for anybody who wanted to put forth the effort to better themselves. And what that meant was that if you’re going to educate everybody it’s going to cost more money. If it’s going to cost more money you’re going to have to raise taxes. And you know the rules of politics and who’s for those things and who’s against them, to this very moment. So you had the partisan divide.”

Romer understood the dynamic and approached Rep. Palmer Burch (R-Denver). “I said, ‘Palmer, this idea is not going to fly with a Democrat sponsor. I want to give you



*Early student leader Robert Bowen served as student body president and has authored the book *The Vision, The Struggle: How Metropolitan State University of Denver Began*. Photo by Jessica Taves.*

this college as a proposal and I'm going to fold my tent and be a supporter of you and your leadership in this college.” Burch introduced House Bill 349 on February 25: “Concerning the System of Higher Education in the State of Colorado, and ‘Metropolitan State College’ as a Component Part of Such System.”

HB349 specified a two-year, open-enrollment college, growing to four years by 1970, focused on liberal arts and sciences and vocational/technical training. It provided \$100,000 to plan for opening in 1964. CU's Denver Center would be phased out.

Legislators with colleges in their districts were “natural enemies,” according to Bowen. Others included “rural and suburban legislators that voted against everything they saw as benefiting Denver. In addition, many Republicans simply opposed any new program that cost money.” CU lobbied legislators who were alumni.

At the House Education Committee hearing in March 1963, opponents contended that CU's Denver Extension was better suited to provide higher education in Denver, and Colorado could not afford two schools in Denver. Their amendments supporting the Extension were unsuccessful and HB349 passed. Similar amendments failed during second reading in the full House on March 30. HB349 passed, although a third-reading amendment cut funding to \$50,000.

As Bowen reports, CU's regents and students argued that their Extension “could meet the educational demands of Denver ‘better, cheaper, and quicker’ than a separate college” during the Senate Finance Committee hearing. HB349 died on a tie vote. However, legislative rules allowed supporters a second chance when the committee report on HB349 came up for approval by the full Senate. It was amended to show the bill actually passed. Funding was cut to \$25,000 during HB349's second reading on April 5. The bill passed on third reading the next day.

Gov. Love signed HB349 on May 5, 1963, but arrested progress by withholding the money for planning—insisting on another study to formulate a master plan ensuring no program duplication and to determine whether junior colleges were a better value. *The Denver Post* reported, “Education Expert to Make Colorado Study.” The consultant's analysis confirmed the earlier studies' conclusion: Colorado needed more four-year college capacity. Love held on to the money until the Legislative Committee on Education Beyond High School demanded the funds be released so planning could proceed. He relented in August.

The state colleges' trustees finished “A Plan for the Operation of Metropolitan State College” (nicknamed the “Green Report” for its green cover) in early December. It said the college should open in September 1964 and run year-round to serve more students.

Metropolitan State College (MSC) would offer liberal arts, business, teacher education, and technical programs: “. . . not only geared to the occupational needs and opportunities provided by the economy of its area, but which also serve in a general way the undergraduates educational needs of a metropolis.” It would have no Greek organizations or athletics. “The task of the urban-oriented college is basically to provide the student with his education, and at most, to ease his way in enjoying the rich experience of the huge laboratory for living that is his city.” Quarterly tuition was estimated at \$100.

The Green Report identified the vacant Security Life Building at Fourteenth and Stout in downtown Denver and estimated costs for leasing or purchasing and renovating it. “Plan Seeks Start of Metro College by September '64,” reported the *Rocky Mountain News* on December 11. The trustees wanted \$1,142,706 for the first year, anticipating a student body of 1,145 freshmen, and projecting 22,824 students by 1980.

Money became the battlefield. “Metro College Problem for Assembly,” the *Post* reported on December 31. “Immediately, the Colorado education scene was torn with charges and countercharges. At the University of Colorado in Boulder, officials saw the new school as an attempt to infringe on CU's own plans for developing higher education in Denver. On junior college campuses throughout the state, there were cries of anger and anguish as college presidents warned of the end of the community college system in Colorado and went so far as to predict the stifling of technical and vocational programs in the state.”

The stage was set to continue previous legislative battles, including resolutions allowing CU's Denver and Colorado Springs Extensions to grant four-year degrees. Love delivered a blow in his 1964 State of the State address: “. . . we are premature at this time in considering a new four-year college for the metropolitan area. I am therefore not asking the legislature . . . to implement plans . . . for Metropolitan State College.” And the Green Report hadn't even been printed yet.

MSC's supporters regrouped. Their college was authorized, and they reminded colleagues of the coming wave of high school graduates. The Denver Public Schools—

Rep. Palmer Burch was its president—supported MSC. Fierce opposition continued, but the trustees kept planning behind the scenes, hoping to get funding after the fall elections. MSC’s projected 1964 opening came—and went.

HB1101, asking almost \$69,000 to keep MSC progressing, was introduced in 1965. As Bowen says, “The argument made by *The Denver Post* and others that Metro should de-emphasize academic programs, was ripe with undercurrents of both classism and racism. Inherent in that argument was a belief that privileged (usually white) kids deserve to go to college or a university, but poor and minority kids should just go to a trade school and become a mechanic or some other tradesman.” Plus, it would cost the state money. HB1101 passed, thanks to some clever legislative footwork orchestrated by House Speaker Allen Dines, who supported the bill, and went to the Senate, where the old arguments continued.

MSC’s supporters worked on a parallel track to insert funding into Colorado’s main budget bill. Sen. Joe Shoemaker (R-Denver) added an appropriation for \$1,023,709—combined state and tuition money. The budget passed on second reading in the Senate and Shoemaker hustled it immediately to final reading before opponents could discover his strategy. It passed both Senate and House and Gov. Love signed it on May 17, 1965. MSC had until October 4 to organize—a year behind the original schedule.

Looking back on what he started fifty years ago, Romer says, “It was very difficult to keep it alive, sustain it and get it off the ground . . . I think there are people who still feel bruised about this idea.”

One of the Green Report’s authors, Keats McKinney, Ph.D., of Adams State College, signed on as dean. “He came to Denver right away to start hiring people,” McKinney’s secretary, Sandi Jones, who followed him from Alamosa, recalls. “A lot of people we hired had seen notices in the paper and came in for an interview, and Dr. McKinney would go on trips to visit five, six, seven people at a time.”

The trustees appointed Harlan Bryant, Ph.D., Western State College’s president, as interim MSC president.

Romer arranged for State Capitol Room 227 as a temporary office. Leasing permanent space was a top priority. Bryant rented space in the Kentucky Central Building at 333 West Colfax Avenue (nicknamed “Triple T”) for classrooms and laboratories, in the University of Denver Administration Building at 1445 Cleveland Place, and at the nearby Emily Griffith Opportunity School for vocational classes. More space was needed with plenty of parking and good bus service.

The June 19 *Denver Post* reported, “Forum Building to be Central Quarters of Metro College.” The Forum, at Fourteenth Avenue and Cherokee Street, was still under construction. It had space for offices, classrooms, and a reading room. However, Denver’s building inspector charged that the hallways were too narrow, the floors too weak, and the classrooms didn’t have the required two exits. Moreover, a bar was already licensed for the basement, which the law said was too close. Ultimately, administrators got a variance for the building and the bar owner agreed not to open.

Denver’s business leaders wanted the college located farther downtown. The vacant Security Life Insurance building was written into the Green Report as the proposed location, but college leaders wanted to be near Civic Center—its “campus green”—and the Denver Public Library, which received

payment to act as the new college’s library. Security Life’s vice president, Shelby Harper, who had been among the Green Report’s authors, felt “screwed over,” according to Bowen.

Bryant continued busily leasing space while the trustees interviewed permanent presidential prospects. In mid-July they settled on Kenneth Phillips, Ph.D., who had experience planning and opening California State College–San Bernardino. Phillips recalled in a February 2, 1969, issue of *The Denver Post’s Empire* magazine that, “Usually you plan a school for years before you start taking students. But Metro State was virtually an ‘instant college.’ . . . The only reason we made it was because of the high morale the school generated. Everybody pitched in—the trustees, the faculty, the students.”

“We worked 9–10 hours a day and a half day Saturday, from the time we started through the opening in the fall,” Sandi Jones says.



A 1969 issue of *Empire: The Magazine of The Denver Post* profiled Metro State, “Denver’s Invisible College.”

The Denver Post reported in mid-July that there were 1,007 early applications, with 1,250 expected by October 1. Technical classes were planned in data processing, engineering design, instrumentation, and electronics technology. “About 10 percent of Metro’s applicants have indicated an interest in technical courses which can be completed in two years,” the article noted.

Surprisingly, more students wanted four-year liberal arts than vocational training. This trend emerged early. On July 21 the *Rocky Mountain News*’ Robert Chase wrote in a column titled “Different Picture of Metro College” that “The idea, as I heard it explained, was that there were thousands of ‘under-educated’—many of them from minority and under-privileged groups—who had no access to educational opportunities necessary for them to get jobs. For a great many of these, technical training was at least as important as the usual advanced educational classes.”

When classes began in October, 1,189 students had registered out of the 1,700 who applied and 1,350 were admitted, the majority from the metro area. The *News* reported in November that, “The blueprint expected Metro to have 318 students its first year and 821 students its second year—a smaller 2-year total than showed up for the first quarter.”

“I remember standing in the fire exits—floor-to-floor—to register,” Antonio (Tony) Ledesma, Ph.D., recalls. Among the first students, he later returned to teach. “The English Department was located in the Golden Triangle on 11th and Cherokee. We used to have to traverse from there, across Colfax to the 333 Building. We had to run back and forth, sometimes in as little as 10 minutes. That was pretty hard, especially in the winter.”

Sandi Jones remembers, “Right at the beginning one of my jobs was assigning classrooms to teachers. It was not an easy process to figure out how much time you needed to run

from the Triple T building to Cherokee building . . . really tricky. Because our faculty ran, just like our students ran and you had to run across Colfax.” This is how the concept of the MSC “roadrunner” was born; MSC later adopted “Rowdy Roadrunner” as its mascot.



A student uses the school library's card catalog in the 1970s.



Students and faculty alike dodged Colfax traffic to get to class—leading the school to adopt its “roadrunner” mascot.

History professor Stephen J. Leonard, who came on board in the second year, says, “They were scurrying all the time to rent buildings and they were running massively large classes at some times. I remember having about 110 people in an American West class. . . . I think [that space] was built for another purpose back in about 1920 or so. I think the room I was in was actually where they parked the trucks or something.”

Doug Holcombe, one of the initial students and first student body president, recalls, “As class let out you could look down in the Forum Building and see people running across Colfax either to get to their cars before the meter maids got to them or to go to their next class.” Holcombe laughs about being on a first-name basis with the parking referee. “I probably spent a thousand dollars on tickets down there.”

Clearly, a permanent campus was necessary. President Phillips outlined the needs in a City Club speech, estimating that MSC would grow to 20,000 students. A consolidated campus would need about 2.3 million square feet of buildings

on 350 acres, with parking space for 10,000 cars, space for physical education, and, if needed down the road, 40 acres for dormitories.

Phillips requested \$1.6 million to run MSC during 1966–67 and asked to add a class per year to grow into a four-year college. Opponents answered with an unsuccessful bill to push it back to a junior-college model. Instead, the trustees added programs—aerospace technology, culinary arts, ornamental horticulture, police science, nursing, and X-ray technology—based “on an analysis of personnel needs in the greater Denver area,” according to the *Post*.

The legislature continued to create problems. Doug Holcombe remembers President Phillips complaining during an elevator conversation: “The legislature is killing us and I can’t go watch ’em.’ I told him that I could, so instead of going to the student center and studying I’d go to the Capitol gallery.” Holcombe befriended legislators and recruited other students to lobby, including Robert Bowen. “The main thing was to get the money to keep our doors open,” Holcombe says. “CU tried to shut us down. I testified several times to the JBC [Joint Budget Committee].” In 1967, with student lobbyists’ help and under growing pressure from Denver businesses, the legislature approved the four-year request.

It was a win for Holcombe, Bowen, Ledesma, and many others. Holcombe flunked out of Colorado State College and says MSC was his “second and only chance.”

Bowen couldn’t afford to go elsewhere. Ledesma says, “We couldn’t have afforded CU. . . . Metro is known as a place for people who are first in their families to go to college. I worked as many as three jobs.” Unable to go straight through, he graduated in 1972. They were the students Romer envisioned. Growing into a four-year institution, however, meant more space problems.

Auraria, located between the Platte River and downtown, was Denver’s oldest settlement—a multicultural community of blue-collar Hispanic, Irish, and Jewish residents. The 1965 Platte River flood damaged a large swath of it. It was one of nineteen potential metro-area campus sites evaluated for MSC by Albert C. Martin & Associates of Los Angeles. Denver’s Planning Office and the Downtown Denver Master Plan Committee did their own assessments. “Mayor Wants College Located in Auraria,” the *Post* reported on August 28, 1966. “The college could upgrade what has become a sagging section of the city.”

Gregorio Alcaro, grandson of a Hispanic couple who settled there and opened the Casa Mayan restaurant in 1933, rejects that characterization. “I don’t equate a physical decay with social decay,” Alcaro argues. “It was over 100 years old. And you still had remnants of the 1860s here.” Casa Mayan was among the buildings preserved on the Ninth Street Historic Park—a block salvaged and restored when



Doug Holcombe, the first student body president, successfully lobbied the legislature for funding to transform MSC into a four-year college.



Metropolitan State College's first graduating class, in 1969

the Auraria Campus was built. Alcaro now runs the Auraria Casa Mayan Heritage foundation, celebrating his family's and Auraria's history.

Auraria's available space—at least some relatively underdeveloped and damaged in the 1965 flood, with the potential for federal urban renewal funding—made it attractive.

The first issue of MSC's *The Metropolitan Magazine*, dated October 9, 1967, reported that, “the Auraria site has the most support from the City of Denver. One reason for this is that in the Auraria area the least amount of people will be displaced (300 as compared to about 2,000 in the Civic Center area and 1,400 in the North Stadium area).” Add to that good traffic access and the potential to become an economic powerhouse. Other possible sites included one near Civic Center and the “North Stadium” site west of the Valley Highway (today's Interstate 25). Sites in downtown's Skyline Urban Renewal area, one near Union Station, and even the Park Hill Golf Course were passed over.

Martin's study estimated the Auraria site acquisition at \$26,671,000. Federal funding was crucial: “U.S. Holds Metro's Future,” reported the *Rocky Mountain News*, quoting the head of the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA). “If the project doesn't meet the national goals of HUD we can forget Auraria as a site for Metro State.”

Additionally, the state's contribution totaled almost \$9 million. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education responded that Auraria was fine, but only if the city paid for it. Denver planning director James D. Braman retorted that this was “an outrage.”

In fall 1969, MSC occupied ten buildings and served 7,000 students. Space concerns indicated open enrollment must end, but students petitioned the trustees to keep admission open.

Denver City Council voted for a November bond issue election to raise \$5.3 million for Auraria's acquisition. According to Bowen, who testified as the new student

body president, more than 200 people packed the Council chambers. Auraria residents testified in opposition, while others maintained there were other, better locations. DURA's chief pointed out that only Auraria qualified for urban renewal funds.

The bond election went ahead, facing steep opposition. Bowen wrote, “Denver's Chicano community was nearly united in opposition . . . businesses in Auraria were organized against the bond issue. They did not want to relocate because they had low taxes, and in better neighborhoods, the land would be more expensive and taxes higher.” Bowen was conflicted. As a student leader he promoted the bond issue. “I had real misgivings. My mom didn't want her place, the place she was born and raised, torn down. But she also knew that if it weren't for Metro, I wouldn't be in college.”

The bond issue passed narrowly. In the student newspaper, *THE PAPER*, President Phillips said, “It was made possible by . . . the many students who worked long hours to provide information to the people of Denver and to get out the vote.”

The original Auraria plan was just for MSC, but CU argued that it needed more space, and the Community College of Denver, opened in 1967, also did. Sandi Jones recalls, “We had an architect that planned the buildings and campus and this was going to be Metro. And then the legislature got involved.” State money came with the command to combine three schools on the Auraria Campus.

Naysayers warned that Colorado couldn't afford the \$5.6 million. Auraria residents and businesses sued unsuccessfully, and planning to acquire the land and relocate them progressed. With the city, DURA, and state and federal governments all involved, it was a fraught situation.

Despite outward agreement, CU was balking. *THE PAPER*'s Auraria Supplement reported on January 12, 1972, that CU regent Joseph Coors believed “Auraria is not a necessity and neither is Metropolitan State College.



Today's Ninth Street Historic Park

It is his opinion that if CUDC were properly funded, it could handle the added enrollment of MSC.” Coors said MSC’s open-door policy “helps flood [the job] market even further, reduces the value of all degrees, and clashes with funds which are available for other institutions and students.”

CU president Frederick Thieme said, “The two cannot exist side-by-side, and compete for the same dollar.” Thieme said plans for CU to drop the Denver Center’s undergraduate courses when it became part of the combined campus were “sheer crap.”

Historic preservationists pushed DURA successfully to save St. Cajetan’s, St. Elizabeth’s, and Emmanuel Episcopal churches. City council refused to landmark the vacant Tivoli Brewery; it was fenced off for years after students refused to fund renovation for a student center. Later, Tivoli was leased for commercial redevelopment. When that flopped, the Auraria Higher Education Commission, formed in 1971 to oversee campus development, took it back. Historic Denver, Inc. mounted a grassroots fundraising campaign in the mid-1970s to save Casa Mayan and other Ninth Street buildings and create the Ninth Street Historic Park.

On April 5, 1972, *THE PAPER* crowed, “Auraria Bags Unanimous \$40 million Vote.” The JBC recommended a three-year payout—a big gift, since campus backers had asked for \$13 million. Rep. Don Friedman (R-Denver) was quoted: “‘The committee felt,’ he said, ‘that if we’re going to go ahead with Auraria, we might as well do it right and do it now.’” Demolition began in 1973 and Metropolitan State College moved into its new, shared campus in 1976.

Was Metropolitan State College—later Metropolitan State College of Denver and now Metropolitan State University of Denver—necessary? Certainly Roy Romer thinks so. “It was so obvious that we had such a need in higher education and we didn’t need to kill it because the university wanted the sole turf of downtown Denver.”

This year, MSU Denver is marking its golden anniversary with a campaign asserting that it “Transforms Lives, Communities and Higher Education.” The numbers confirm

its success. In fifty years, the University has graduated more than 85,000 students, of whom 75 percent stayed in Colorado. One in five Coloradans seeking a bachelor’s degree goes to MSU Denver, a third are the first in their families to attend college, and a third are students of color.

Many MSU Denver students have made a significant impact on Colorado and the rest of the nation. MSC students anchored Colorado’s Latino and African American rights movements and led the state’s antiwar movement.

Katherine Archuleta (Class of ’71), former head of the federal Office of Personnel Management, says MSC “really set me on a life path. It was the perfect place for me to cut

my teeth. It was an introduction to the many people who would have a big impact on my life.”

Epworth United Methodist Church’s Rev. King D. Harris, one of the first African American students, says, “It was a crucible of where all these people came to mix and come together and from it you have people you will always have an affinity towards. . . . They were the best four-year teaching college there ever was, in my mind.”

Many students have been taught. Many more lives have been transformed.

For Further Reading

The bulk of the information for this essay was derived from original documents and contemporary reports in *The Denver Post*, the *Rocky Mountain News*, and Metropolitan State publications, including *The Metropolitan Magazine* and *THE PAPER*, as well as interviews with key players in the MSU Denver story. See also Robert E. Bowen’s *The Vision, The Struggle: How Metropolitan State University of Denver Began* (Denver: REBALS Press, 2015).

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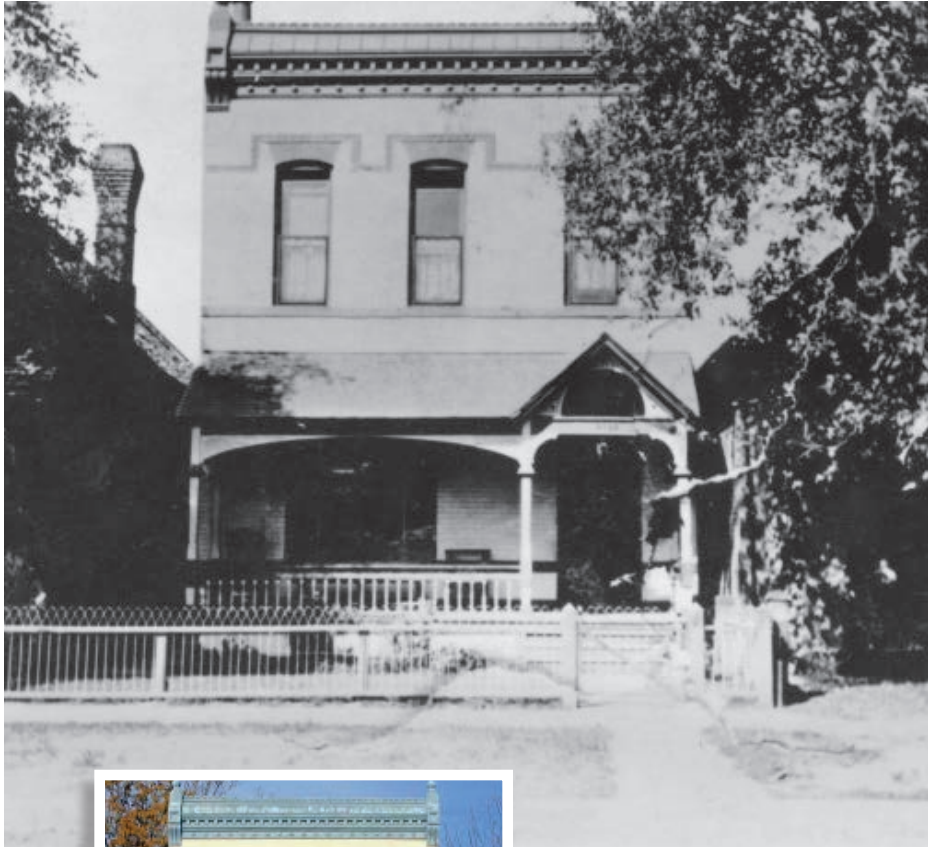
The historic Tivoli brewery became a focal point of the Auraria Campus, serving as student union and retail space.

Do you know this building?

Continued from page 15

BY HEATHER PETERSON,
NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTER HISTORIAN

Answers: b) Denver, c) ca. 1890, b) Justina Ford



In a March 1950 interview for *Negro Digest*, Dr. Justina Ford recalled that as a child, “I wouldn’t play with the others unless we played hospital, and I wouldn’t play even that unless they let me be the doctor.” Justina Laurena Warren grew up in Illinois and realized her dream of becoming a doctor after graduating from Hering Medical College in 1899.

Justina and her husband, John, moved to Denver in 1902. She was Colorado’s first African American physician. Knowing she faced discrimination in finding a job, she established a private practice in Denver. In 1911 she bought the circa-1890 two-story brick house at 2335 Arapahoe, using it as her home and office until her death in 1952.

Ford made house visits to the majority of her patients, who were from various ethnic backgrounds and feared or could not afford hospitals. Her patients’ health was her primary concern, not the money, so she often accepted goods or a simple thank-you for payment. Patients traveled from the mountains, eastern plains, and the Denver area to see her. Although a general practitioner, Ford specialized in obstetrics—delivering about 7,000 babies during her career.

She became a member of various medical associations previously closed to African Americans and women. In 1951 she received the Human

Rights Award from Denver’s Cosmopolitan Club, and in 1985 she was inducted to the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame.

Ford’s home was nearly demolished in 1983, but was saved with efforts of Historic Denver, the late Paul Stewart (founder of the Black American West Museum), and others. Saving the house meant moving it thirteen blocks to 3091 California Street, where it became the new home of the BAWM. The National Register of Historic Places listed the house in 1984.

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