Biographical Information

Kenton C. Ensor was born December 15, 1907 in Paris, Missouri. At the age of fifteen, he moved to Denver with his family. He graduated from North High School and went into the construction business with his father. In 1932, Ensor built his first home for sale and established, with his father, K.C. Ensor Construction Company. In 1933 he married the former Eddy Roberts, and built three more homes (Post, 06/07/76).

During the 1940s, Ensor was involved in war-related construction projects in such places as Pando, Colorado, and White Horse, Yukon Territory, where he built officers' clubs and quarters for the military (Post, 06/07/76). After World War II, Ensor recognized the need for affordable housing and began looking for opportunities. He built many homes that conformed to FHA and VA funding specifications in several Park Hill subdivisions including Clayton Park. He also built the Spruce Knob Resort and Homes in the Estes Park area.

In 1950, Ensor began construction of 200 homes in Mar Lee Manor and developed College View Shopping Center. In 1954, along with developers Franklin Burns and Ted Hutchinson, Ensor developed Harvey Park, an area in southwest Denver bounded on the west by Sheridan Boulevard, West Jewell on the north, South Lowell Boulevard on the east, and US Hwy. 285 on the south. The development would grow to 4,200 homes.

In 1955, KC Ensor partnered with Carl Norgren, Bud Knight, Balmore Swalm, and John Sullivan to purchase the old Zang Ranch and initiated his most ambitious project Broomfield Heights, "a 6000-home city he envisioned with its own water system, fire department, shopping center, parks, church and school system. The subdivision, then, was to contain 1,080 acres of land and a population of 20,000" (Post, 06/07/76). Recognizing that there was no near-by source for sod to supply his home buyers, Ensor initiated the first large-scale sod-growing effort in the Denver area. He developed the old Wild Acres Estates property into Green Valley Turf Farm, which today encompasses more than 850 acres of land in sod farming at three sites (http://www.gvt.net/html/history.html).

Ensor did not confine his work to affordable single-family housing developments. In 1963 he developed and built 30 homes in Ponderosa Hills, East of Parker (News, 06/30/63). He later developed the Leawood Subdivision in Littleton, and Dillon Valley and Dillon Valley East in the mountains. He served as president and principal organizer of Dillon Valley Metropolitan District in Dillon, as well as similar roles with Southwest Metropolitan Water and Sanitation District.

K.C. Ensor owned ranches in Colorado and Wyoming. He died unexpectedly at the age of 68 in 1976, while on vacation in Las Vegas, Nevada (Post 06/07/76).

(Biography by Paul Malkoski)
## Credited Projects (partial list)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project or Development</th>
<th>Location*</th>
<th>Building Types</th>
<th>Date**</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar Lee Manor</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td></td>
<td>1950-54?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broomfield Heights</td>
<td>Broomfield show houses at 101 W. 4th Ave. Dr. (1955); 650 Beryl St. (1959), Broomfield</td>
<td>Ranch</td>
<td>Ca. 1955-59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leawood</td>
<td>Show house at 5932 S. Otis (1963); 6656 W. Leawood Dr. and 6619, 6578 S. Newland Circle (1965); 6333, 6334 W. Burgandy Dr. (1966) Englewood; unincorporated Jefferson County</td>
<td>Ranch, tri-level, bi-level</td>
<td>Ca. 1963-1978</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dillon Valley East</td>
<td>Dillon</td>
<td>Condominiums</td>
<td>Ca. 1971</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Model home addresses are given when known.
*Completion date or construction span is stated if known. Plan, building permit, or assessor dates are used if completion date or period is unknown.

### Reference Material

“Articles of Incorporation of Dillon Valley East Condominium Association,” signed by incorporators (including K.C. Enser) on February 1, 1971.


Site Files Database, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

Research Notes:

The Internet yielded few valuable sites that contained biographical information, and none that made specific reference to Ensor's activities as a builder of affordable single-family homes in the Denver area.

The two obituaries are the main source of biographical data on E. C. Ensor. Other articles cited provided additional details of his real estate and development activities, but did not add any personal details.

Revised: August 20, 2006