



FROM TIME TO TIME

A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society

APRIL-JUNE 2023

Volume 14, Issue 2

Honoring Our Past – Celebrating Our Future

LANNY COOK - BOOK SIGNING RECEPTION

On April 1, 2023, several people stopped by the Dottie Bakke House to see Lanny Cook and his family and to see the historical Dottie Bakke Home. It was a great afternoon with a long-time Commerce City resident and former teacher and author from Adams City High School.





LEGENDARY LOCALS APRIL-JUNE

Nominate your Legendary
Local by visiting the
museum!

Marilyn Krause

Steve Stevenson

JoAnn Stevenson

Gene Leffel



WELCOME VISITORS

We are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday
from 10 am – 2 pm

Tuesday and Thursday by appointment!

UPCOMING EVENTS...

CCHS Annual Celebration-Saturday September 16, 2023

Senior Tea-Sunday October 22, 2023

Rummage Sale-Saturday October 28, 2023

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT...

Jim Kinghorn...



Jim Kinghorn is helping the CCHS move items, change tires, cover the Dottie Bakke swimming pool and much more. We would like to thank him for his support and help. Jim Kinghorn was born and raised in Englewood, Colorado. After graduation he enlisted in the army rather than be drafted. He spent a year of his time in Viet Nam building Helicopter pads. He always says he built things up and blew them back down. After the service he began a career in carpentry specializing in interior trim. He started his company and mostly did



upscale houses on the south end of Denver. He is the father of three children, and he has 4 grandchildren. He was a pretty fair baseball pitcher and coached soccer for many years. His passion is fishing. His bucket list is to catch a fish in every state with a fly rod. He has 6 to go. Jim is a kindhearted man and goes the extra mile to help anyone in need. He moved to Commerce City 15 years ago and loves the heart of the Commerce City people, mainly in the core city.

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Phone: 303-288-2590 Website: www.cchistoric.com

Email: cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com



FOR THE NEWSLETTER

All submissions are welcome, including obituaries. Send submissions to Debra Bullock
(Photos or stories).

SEND TO: cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com, 303-946-3426

BOARD MEMBERS

Debra Bullock



Barb McMillan



Sheila Harris



Candy Machuga



CCHS Charter Members...

Joy Bishop

Gary Drotar

Dustin McIntyre

Hester Bonnell

Reba Drotar

Loretta Petty

Debra Bullock

Samantha Ford

Don Sater

Rene' Bullock

Sean Ford

JoAnn Stevenson

Thelma Cole

Esther Hall

Dick Stevenson

Cindy Comstock

Bob Hutchings

Janet Union

Gary Comstock

Dorothy Hutchings

Norm Union

Kristi Douglas

Gene Leffel

June Younger

Steve Douglas

David Lutter

Troy Younger

History has no boundaries-Come celebrate yours!



Lochbuie's Betty Martin, a former City Clerk for Commerce City, retired some ten years ago. This month, she marks another milestone – her 100th birthday.

Martin celebrated her 100th birthday on July 9 with a birthday soiree hosted by her family at Chilis in Brighton. Her actual birthday is July 17.

Martin's daughter Nan Johnson said her mom loved to work and did jobs across the country. The family finally convinced her to stop when she turned 90.

"She worked with attorneys, did police work and worked in politics. She enjoyed that kind of work until she was 90," said her daughter Nan Johnson.

Martin grew up in Benson, Minnesota but moved to New York City after graduating high school. She went to secretarial school and found work as a secretary, worked her way up to legal secretary writing legal documents for an attorney.

"She met my dad in Brooklyn, New York in 1944 and then came to Colorado in 1946," Johnson said. "I was born in 1947."

Johnson said after her father died, Martin went to work in Estes Park for the police department and also did some work for the Stanley Hotel.

"It was when Stephen King came to the Stanley Hotel and was signing autographs for the book 'The Shining,'" Johnson said.

Nan said her mom later married Brighton Police Chief Gilbert A Martin.

"He was my stepdad and I called him dad," she said.

When Martin returned from Estes Park, she went to work for the Commerce City government as a city clerk for years until she had to retire at 70 years old.

But Martin loved to stay busy and volunteered to work for the election commission until she was 90. She also kept busy helping her other daughter Debra Gutierrez with her nail and tanning salon, cleaning the beds, and helping around the salon.

Gutierrez said her mom came to her salon and Gutierrez asked her what she was doing. Her Mom said, "Whatever you want me to do." And that's how she started to help around the salon.

"I had to travel to Vegas to get certified to operate the tanning salon, and mom came with me, and she got certified," Gutierrez said.

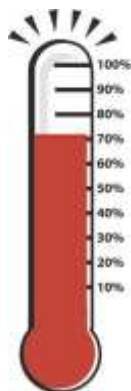
Johnson said her grandchildren are flying in for this event for her mom's birthday party and have a granddaughter that lives in Fort Worth; she and her husband are flying in for this special occasion.

"She also is going to find out she has a grandson, who is now on his second day at work at the Commerce City Police Department," Johnson said.



DONATE NOW! WHAT YOUR DONATION WILL DO?

Help us save this house and move our museum. Additional donations will help us with operational costs while we secure large funding opportunities to acquire the Dottie Bakke house. Our operating costs can include the following... paying internet, rent, utilities, storage costs for our memorabilia and funding for Collections management, providing new displays and cash match for grants. **GOAL 18,000.00 BY DECEMBER 2023!!!**



\$50.00_____

\$100.00_____

\$250.00_____

\$500.00_____

\$1000.00_____

Other_____

Please mail donation to:

Commerce City Historical Society

6505 East 60th Avenue

Commerce City, CO 80022

Dottie Bakke Spring Yard Cleanup Saturday April 15, 2023



Neighbors, CCHS members, and the fire department worked to do some spring yard cleaning at the Dottie Bakke house. Thank you to all who came out and supported this preservation project.

Member Profile Meet Lynn Bradley...

Lynn Bradley graduated from Adams City High School in 1971. Her grandmother owned the White Rock Café, and they started the local cab company-Derby Cab. Lynn worked for a local doctor's office for 44 years. She has served her community by being a part of local community organizations such as the Commerce City Historical Society, South Adam Women's Association and more. Her favorite service now is trying to take the museum to another level in the preservation of the Dottie Bakke House. Lynn encourages everyone to take the time to visit the museum, attend events and support the museum financially to help the CCHS to be able to maintain the history of Commerce City!



Meet Commerce City's New Recreation Logo



June 15, 2023

At the end of 2022, the city began creating a new, vibrant brand identity to match the variety of recreational opportunities offered in the city. The goals for creating a new recreation brand were to illustrate the division's fun, energetic, inclusive, and relaxed environment. On Thursday, June 15, 2023, the new recreation logo was unveiled at the first Music in the Park event of the summer.

The new recreation logo includes the same secondary color palette as the primary city logo and contains a stylized "C" to represent Commerce City. The logo design is open and flexible, allowing individuals to see different aspects of the mark depending on where they focus their attention. For example, within and around the "C", you may see a sports ball and racket or hands holding a ball.

Residents can expect to see the new logo worn by city recreation staff, used in the activity guide, marketing materials, social media and other recreation-centric city communications.

OUT & ABOUT IN COMMERCE CITY...

CITY BUSINESS AWARDS LUNCH APRIL 7, 2023



The Commerce City Economic Development Division presented their awards at its annual Business Appreciation Awards Breakfast. The event recognizes businesses, individuals, and organizations that contribute to Commerce City's economic vitality.

- **Business on the Move Award –Thrasher Foundation Repair, Border States, Carter Truck Driving School, El Camello Western Wear, Las Dos Americas Tortilleria**
- **Entrepreneurial Spirit Award – Tamales by Sara**
- **Minority Business Award – Dulceria Candy Mex**
- **Economic Development Award for Leadership –Delwest**
- **Business of the Year Award – Bobcat of the Rockies**



RED SWEATER AWARD RECEPTION-March 31, 2023

Each year a volunteer from the Commerce City Senior Center is awarded the *Red Sweater award*, a symbol for the Volunteer of the Year.

RED SWEATER AWARD WINNERS 1988-2022

1988	Bobbie Crall & James Deden
1989	Evelyn Moses
1990	Pauline Bettger
1991	Frances Olin
1992	Jim & Jenny McNew
1993	Joe & Elenor Ottero
1994	Fred Zagari
1995	Rudy & Delores Parks
1996	Jesse & Emma Goodenough
1997	Margaret Torres
1998	Pete Richards
1999	Lucille Nation
2000	Mary Landin
2001	Marcelle Meyer
2002	Pat Townley
2003	Carlene Knisley
2004	Lois Bertapelle & Beverly Walker
2005	Dorothy Miller
2006	Juanita Earwood
2007	Irene Stertz
2008	Leonard & Vangie Rountree
2009	Mildred Stites
2010	Mildred Baker
2011	Pauline Flowers
2012	Ramona Cisneros
2013	Beth Lambrecht
2014	George Maxey & Gwen Wilson
2015	Bob & Carmen Kreutzer
2016	Thelma Cole & Sandy Carruthers
2017	Loretta Petty & Marian Meyer
2018	Judy Marie Locke & Shirley Valentine
2019	Martha Applegarth & Vivian Parker
2020	Jennie Loveridge & JoAnn Hardt
2021	Donna Littlefield & Dona Nunlee
2022	Reba Drotar & Sandra Schmoller

FIELD OF HONOR APRIL 29, 2023



On Saturday April 29, 2023, SACFD was represented at the Great Plains Field of Honor ceremony in Ft. Lupton. Harold Hubbel and Richard Watts were among the fallen first responders honored, who lost their lives while on duty for the SACFD.

LEGION POST 151 - VETERAN'S MEMORIAL DEDICATION MAY 27, 2023



On Saturday May 27, 2023, the Commerce City Legion Post 151 dedicated the Veterans and First Responders Memorial.



Firefighters from the South Adams County Fire Department and past volunteer Chief Craig Machuga at the dedication.

SAND CREEK REGIONAL GREENWAY AT THE COMMERCE CITY MUSEUM MAY 27, 2023



On Saturday May 27, 2023, the Sand Creek Regional Greenway hosted a get together at the museum for the neighborhood to learn about what is happening on the greenway.

ADAMS COUNTY VETERAN'S MEMORIAL MAY 29, 2023

The Adams County Veterans Memorial is situated in Riverdale Regional Park and is an architectural masterpiece designed to pay tribute to the valor and sacrifice of those who have defended our nation throughout history. In addition to the near life-size replica of the *USS Colorado*, the memorial encompasses various elements, including marble monuments recognizing each branch of the military, sandblasted plaques of presidential quotes, a story wall detailing the life of a soldier that were submitted by Adams County residents, and a concrete map in the entryway that pinpoints all veterans' memorials within Adams County.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE MAY 29, 2023



TIM MOORE RETIREMENT

After 47 years of helping make Commerce City a more fun place to live, Tim retired from the city's Parks, Recreation, and Golf Department on April 3, 2023. Pictured with Tim is his wife, Angela.

PAULA BAKER RETIREMENT

After 37 years of dedication to the city of Commerce City, longtime employee Paula Baker celebrated her retirement on Friday June 2, 2023. Pictured with Paula is her husband Chuck, who also served the city for over 30 years with the CCPD.



TASTY DONUTS DEBUTS NEW SIGN

Back in November, the historic Tasty Donut sign was stolen after the owners had taken it down to restore it. They had taken off the wood accents and were in the process of cleaning up the metal frame when sometime on Thursday night, Nov. 10, unknown people took the 17-foot metal structure from the business' backyard. It never was recovered. The new sign uses some of the restored accents from the old sign.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ROTARY SERVICE

On Wednesday May 31, 2023, the Rotary of Commerce City honored Steve “Dick” Stevenson (posthumously) for his 50 years of service with the Rotary organization with his family present.



Groundbreaking for Woodbridge suites hotel- June 22, 2023

TGC Group and Commerce City's Urban Renewal Authority broke ground on the newest hotel project, Woodbridge Suites Commerce City on the Greyhound Park redevelopment project



SACFD-Truck 28 dedication Tuesday June 27, 2023



SACFD held their Truck 28 Templeton Dedication! Truck 28 and Station 28 will be named in Colorado State Patrol Trooper Zachariah Templeton's honor and forever bears his name. Colorado State Patrol Trooper Zachariah Templeton's end of watch was on October 12, 2007, while on duty, proudly serving the citizens of Commerce City and Adams County.

CCHS APPRECIATES OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS...

MAGNOLIA ENTERPRISES

Harlow Leeper, Owner
7290 Magnolia Street

Commerce City Chamber of Commerce



Hi-Lo Employees Corporation



7887 East 60th Avenue
Commerce City, CO 80022
303-289-3761

Mail Xpress LLC



Phil & Wendy Wilson

STATE FARM INSURANCE



Eddie Olivas



ADAMS 14 EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Dale Mingilton



Shelly Lewis
Lanny Cook

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS:

Rene' & Debra Bullock
Loretta Petty
Lilly & Joe Roybal
Dolores Harr

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

APRIL-JUNE 2023

Loretta Petty
Norm Union
Ruth Adams
Eva Colburn
Robert Gehler
Hi-Lo Employees Corp
Jim Deden
Vangie Rountree
Dolores Harr
Dami Bullock
Paula Christianson

Member & Special Friends Obituaries...

Annie McRobbie

May 29, 1931-June 3, 2023

Annie was born May 29, 1931, in Edinburgh Scotland. She married Robert Garlick, a Navy Officer. She came to the US in August of 1955. She was divorced on March 18, 1957. She became a US Citizen on November 30, 1962. She was active in the Commerce City Senior Center. She passed away in Commerce City on June 3, 2023.

Ralph Eugene Watts

December 25, 1945 ~ May 2, 2023 (age 77)



Ralph Eugene Watts, 77, passed away peacefully on May 2, 2023, surrounded by his loving family.

He leaves behind the love of his life after 58 years of marriage, Kathy; two sons, Ricky (Teresa) Watts and Kevin (Katie) Watts; four grandchildren, Joshua (Jenna) Watts, Kyle (Carleen) Watts, Ariel Watts, and Brittany Watts; four great grandchildren, Jackson, Brandy, Kinsley, and Wyatt; his brother, Larry Watts; his sister-in-law, Connie Bonnell; and his nieces and nephews.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph D. and Vernie Watts; his brother, Richard Watts; and his twin granddaughters, Brianna and Deanna Watts.

Ralph was born on December 25th, 1945, in Denver, Colorado. He graduated in 1964 from Adams City High School. He worked at Northwest Pipe (Thompson Pipe and Steel) as a supervisor for 45 years.

In 1974 he joined the South Adams County Volunteer Fire Department. He served as Fire Chief for three years, Captain for four years, and Lieutenant for one. He served for a total of 32 years with the fire department and was very proud to help his community. In 1986 he was elected to the District Board, serving as Director, Treasurer, and President throughout his 20 years of service.

Ralph had a strong sense of faith and attended Intercession Episcopal Church regularly. He was a big part of everything that went on in the church, including the Community of Hope Garden where he helped to gather food for local food banks.

Ralph had many hobbies and interests including racing stock cars, playing softball, bowling, golfing, fishing, hunting, and camping. He also loved to travel and visited 43 different states, Canada, and Mexico. He also loved working in his yard tending to all of the flowers. He was a crafty man and made paver stones in the shape of animals and other special requests. What a wonderful, full life he had. He will be dearly missed.



Richard W. "Steve" Stevenson

May 20, 1931 ~ April 30, 2023 (age 91)

Richard "Steve" Stevenson passed away peacefully on April 30, 2023, surrounded by the love of his family. He leaves behind his beloved wife of nearly 63 years, Jo Ann, his five daughters, Teresa Goodwin (Chris), Patti Kreutzer, Carol Menard (Mike), Gina Seamans (Jim) and Peggy Puetz (Mark), as well as 18 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Louise Stevenson, his sister Mary Schierberl, and his brothers Jim Stevenson and Jack Stevenson.

Richard was born May 20, 1931, in Springfield, Ohio, where he lived until joining the United States Airforce in 1950. While serving at Lowry Airforce Base in

Denver, he met Jo Ann and they married six months later, on May 28, 1960. Other than living a short time in Goldsborough, North Carolina, Richard, and Jo Ann lived and raised their family in Adams County. Following his military service, Richard managed the family business, Adams City Manufacturing, until retiring in 1996. Richard strived to be the best he could always and at everything. He was an active member of the Commerce City Rotary Club and will be posthumously recognized for 50 years of service. He lived his life according to Rotary's Four-Way Test and generously supported all club charities. As an avid traveler, he hand-delivered the Commerce City Rotary flag to clubs around the world, including the Rotary International Headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland.

Richard enjoyed a life-long hobby of model railroading and created a massive HO scale layout in his basement. His gardening skills were legendary, with a specialty in delicious tomatoes and colorful, fragrant roses. For Richard, there were two priorities: family and faith. He relished family get-togethers, particularly over spaghetti, and his Catholic faith guided him in joys and sufferings. Friends and family alike appreciated his jovial sense of humor, his ability to tell a great story or a corny joke, his patriotism and defense of freedom, and most of all, his honesty, integrity, and loyalty.

Visitation was at 10:00am Thursday May 4 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Denver.

Recitation of the Rosary was at 10:30am Thursday May 4 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Denver.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00am Thursday May 4 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Denver.



Carmen Marine Kreutzer

**APRIL 3, 1944 – APRIL 27,
2023**

Carmen Marine Kreutzer, age 79, of Commerce City, Colorado passed away on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

Carmen was born in Denver, Colorado



Karen Sue Stromer

APRIL 19, 1947 – APRIL 22, 2023



On April 19th, 1947, Karen Sue was born to Roy and Cleone Dalrymple. Karen grew up in Commerce City, Colorado and graduated high school at Adams City High School. After graduation Karen spent one year at Colorado State University then moved to Eugene Oregon in 1967. Portland Oregon was Karens' next stop. On a whim, Karen then moved to Hawaii for 3 years. There she met Loyd Stromer. In 1970 she moved back to Denver and married Loyd. From there they moved to Omaha, Nebraska until Loyd got his degree. Then they moved back to Denver for good.

Karen worked at the Colorado Department of Labor and Unemployment until her retirement. In 2000, Karen met Carol and they married in 2018.

Karen raised 5 Sheepdogs, (her love) Yogi, Max, Bumper, Chumley and Chelsey, Sophie, the labradoodle, and Maggie the Wheaton Terrier.

A funeral is scheduled for 11am May the 5th at Olinger Crown Hill with a reception there to follow. Susan Watson will officiate the ceremony. All are welcome to celebrate Karen's life.

Mark Epstein

June 1, 1948 - March 3, 2023



Mark Harold Epstein

It is with profound sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Mark Harold Epstein, who left this world on March 3, 2023. Mark was 74 years old. Born on June 1, 1948, in Cambridge, Massachusetts to the late Irving and Betty Epstein, Mark grew up in a loving family surrounded by his younger siblings, Sue, Jay, and Nancy.

Mark had the privilege of attending Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he learned valuable life lessons and morals that he exhibited throughout his wonderful life. Mark often spoke with great pride about his invaluable lifelong friendships with bonds that could best be described as true brotherhood. Mark then went on to Doane University in Crete, Nebraska where he continued his studies and enjoyed many more lasting friendships.

Mark had a long and fulfilling career in greyhound racing throughout Colorado and Massachusetts and that is how he met his beloved wife of 50 years, Teri Berman. Mark had a great passion for the sport and was known for his dedication and commitment to his work. He was a very well-respected professional in his field and built many lasting relationships throughout his career. Mark later worked in sales at Nieman

Marcus and Andrisen Morton where he cultivated many new friendships.

Mark's greatest pleasure was to spend time with his grandson Brody, playing basketball and baseball together. In his spare time, Mark loved playing golf and spending time with his family. Mark was an avid sports enthusiast and loved to watch and play many different sports. Mark had a warm and welcoming personality, and his kind nature endeared him to all who knew him.

Mark is survived by his wife Teri; by his daughter Jeni and son-in-law and Chad Lieberman, and their son, Brody; by his brother Jay Epstein; by his sister Nancy Gauthier, her partner Jeff Kidwell, and her children Michael and Andrew; by his sister Sue Matza, brother-in-law Barry, and their children Josh and Jeremy; by his brother-in-law Richard Berman and sister-in-law Nancy; by his great aunt Thelma Linsey, wife to his deceased great uncle, Joe Linsey; and, by his uncle Alfred Ross, and his wife Karan.

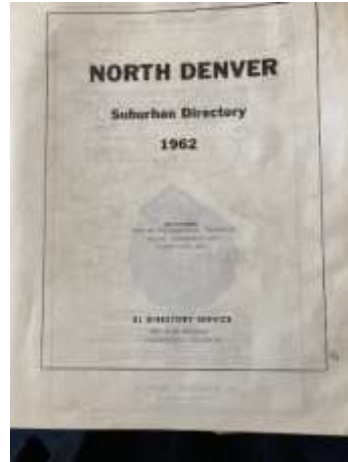
A private funeral service was held for family members.

Membership dues increase in June of 2023...

The CCHS board voted to increase annual membership dues for 2 membership levels. The Individual level increased to \$20 per year, and the Family level increased to \$30 per year.

We are looking for families and businesses that have been associated with Commerce City since 1962!

If your name is in this North Denver Directory, you will get a Golden Ticket!!!! Please stop by the museum and check in with us!



**Our Fabulous Oldies Celebration will be in the spring of 2024!
Check now and get your golden ticket to this event!**

WHY JOIN THE COMMERCE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

- ✓ learn and understand the history of the community in which you live.
- ✓ help preserve our history for future generations.
 - ✓ Meet new people.
 - ✓ Be involved with the community.
 - ✓ Attend events sponsored by the historical society.
 - ✓ Get involved helping the historical society educate people about our history.
- ✓ Volunteer opportunities to help preserve our history.
- ✓ Gain an appreciation for where you live.