



FROM TIME TO TIME

A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society

JAN-MARCH 2023

Volume 14, Issue 1

Honoring Our Past – Celebrating Our Future

LEGENDARY LOCALS' RECEPTION JANUARY 14, 2023

We held our first Legendary Locals award reception on Saturday January 14, 2023. It was great to honor people in our community that are remarkable, extraordinary, well-known and have made contributions of time and talent to the city. Our Legendary Locals for 2022 include the following: Ben Martinez Sr., Sean Ford, Rene' Bullock, Dominick Moreno, Maria Gonzalez, Fire Chief Kevin Vincel, James Allen, Jennifer Allen-Thomas, Esther Hall, Maria Zubia, Jim Deden and Kurt Holland.

Visit the museum to read their bios or to nominate your legendary local.





Nominate your Legendary
Local by visiting the
museum!



UPCOMING EVENTS...

Saturday April 15 - Spring Yard Cleaning 8am -6140 Holly Street

Saturday June 17 - CCHS Membership Meeting

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT...

Commerce City Public Works Crew...



The Commerce City Public Works crew has helped us many times with moving items to our new museum storage location. We would like to thank them for their support and help in moving our memorabilia items.

Pictured left to right: Manny Mendoza, Andy Chavez, Dennis Romero, Richard Walker, and Leonard Molina.

Continued on page 7...

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, or call 303-288-2590

FROM TIME-TO-TIME NEWSLETTER

OUR HISTORY HAS NO BOUNDARIES

A quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society, 6505 E. 60th Avenue, Commerce City, CO 80022

BOARD MEMBERS

Debra Bullock



Barb McMillan



Sheila Harris



Candy Machuga



WELCOME VISITORS

We are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday

from 10 am – 2 pm

Tuesday and Thursday by appointment!

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

CANDY MACHUGA



Candy Machuga grew up in Commerce City and graduated from Adams City High School in 1984. Since then, she has acquired lots of experience in her career between being a Bank Teller for 8 years, and her part-time position of a Mutual Clerk for 4 years at the Mile High Kennel Club, and a Cashier for Checkers. For the last 23 ½ years Candy has been working for the State of Colorado, starting in the

Treasury department and her current position for 22 years at Colorado Parks and Wildlife. She joined the Commerce City Historical Society to help make a difference in her hometown and preserve the history for future generations. Candy has been married for 27 years to Craig. She enjoys gardening, crafts, photography, ancestry, DIY projects, and sightseeing.

BARBARA MCMILLAN

Barbara was born in western Kansas. Her parents moved to Commerce City in 1948. They purchased property along Highway 85 and Brighton Blvd.

She attended Adams City Elementary, Central and Dupont. She attended Adams City Junior High and Adams City High School, graduating in 1963.

She attended Colorado State College, which is now called University of Northern Colorado, graduating with a degree in Education in 1967. She taught elementary physical education and substituting in Denver Public Schools for 7 years.

In 1975, she became a flight attendant and travel guide for a Denver based private travel club, PORTS OF CALL.

Her next challenge was running Best Yet Bar and Grille with her brother Walter from 1984-1988. Next, she went back to school for a new real estate license. She and her sisters-in-law Mary Swank Gomez opened Classic Realty in Commerce City and sold houses.



She began buying real estate in Victor, Colorado and started an antique shop, traveling every weekend to and from to keep the store open. She sold the antique shop and building in 2021.

In 2022, she purchased the Dottie Bakke Victorian House with her friend Jim Kinghorn, and they are working with the Commerce City Historical Society to preserve the property.

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!

THANK YOU TO OUR DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS...



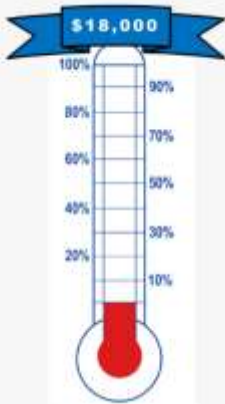
We would like to thank Pam Meier, Marilyn Godfrey and Esther Hall for their service to the Commerce City Historical Society. You have all been a very valuable part of our growth and stability in our organization. We wish you all the best and we will miss you!

DONATE NOW



What will your donation do?

Additional donations will help us with operational costs while we secure large funding opportunities to purchase 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 and providing new displays and cash match for grants.



\$50.00 _____

\$100.00 _____

\$250.00 _____

\$500.00 _____

\$1000.00 _____

Other Donation _____

CCHS DONATION ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please mail donation to: **Commerce City Historical Society**
6505 East 60th Avenue
Commerce City, CO 80022

Member Profile - Meet Shirley Wilcoxon...



Shirley Brown Wilcoxon is a proud member of the Commerce City Historical Society with a zeal for preserving area history. She was on the planning committee for the Adams County School District 14's one-hundred-year celebration, served as the historian for the High School Alumni Association for seven years, took extensive "doorknob to doorknob" pictures of the closing of the old high school and of the new high school, helped plan every reunion for the class of 1962 and assisted other classes, and much more. She created an alumni website with links to free reunion websites for every class at www.adamscityhighschool.com to make sure our school history is preserved. Free websites are available for Lester Arnold High School too. She has a Google Drive photo album with over 8,000 area and school pictures which will be accessible through the

Commerce City Historical Society website plus over a thousand pictures and videos of the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Refuge. She is active in promoting Commerce City history through social media. She was a past administrator of the *You're from Commerce City if...* group and several ACHS Facebook groups. Join Shirley's current Commerce City Reminiscing and Vintage Photos Facebook group. Shirley and her aunt Pearl Brown have donated their family biographies to the historical society, and you should too. Think how proud your family will be. Checkout the historical society website at <https://www.cchistoric.com/> and encourage your friends and family to become members. You could even give them a gift membership. Visit the current historical society museum and the historic Dottie Bakke house. It is one of the oldest homes in the area. With your support and financial donations, it will become the new historical society museum. It is very important for you to contribute your stories, memories, photos, memorabilia, family biographies, and monetary donations to the historical society museum. Your children, grandchildren, and future generations are counting on you. Include the society in your estate planning. Shirley is passionate about preserving the history and heritage of the area.

From page 1 - Public Works helping Commerce City Historical Society. Left to Right: Amber Santistevan, Mike Vasquez, and Leonard Molina.



OUT & ABOUT

SACFD TRAINING AND WELLNESS CENTER OPEN HOUSE JANUARY 12, 2023



Training and Wellness

Facility: The training & wellness center for the SACFD is located at 107th & Fulton Street.



The wellness side of the building includes an in-house physical therapist, a Work Comp Doctors' Office, in-house physical fitness assessments, a professionally designed gym for training tactical athletes (firefighters), and a post-workout/training sauna. The wellness Center will be operated by a collaborative effort between the Physical Therapist, Work Comp Doctor, Nutritionist, Peer Fitness Trainers, the Wellness Program Committee and a partnership with Aviation and Occupational Medicine. The training center also includes an SCBA washer, bunker gear extractor/dryer, and duty uniform clothing washer/dryer to reduce the risk of contamination from work-related carcinogens.

Purchased in 2021, the training site is 4 acres with a 40,000 sq. building. "The Pound" is a state-of-the-art indoor training space with administrative offices, a quartermaster area, multiple conference spaces, and classrooms all with audio-visual capabilities. The indoor training bay is a space large enough to accommodate various fire apparatus with a water drainage system for indoor suppression drills.





City Council appoints Renée M. Chacon to fill Ward III vacancy

11-Month Appointment through 2023 Municipal Election

COMMERCE CITY, COLO. (Jan. 10, 2023) – During a special meeting on Monday evening, the City Council of Commerce City appointed Renée M. Chacon to fill the Ward III vacancy created by the resignation of former Councilmember Rick Davis in December. City Council officially declared the vacancy on Dec. 19 and was required per the city charter to appoint

an eligible person to fill the seat within 30 days. Following the temporary appointment, the Ward III seat will go back to the voters in the 2023 municipal election for a special two-year term.

Councilmember Chacon has lived in Commerce City for five years and been an active resident on numerous fronts. She worked with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) on the Environmental Justice Action Task Force through most of 2022 and served as co-chair of the Equity Analysis Subcommittee. Since 2019, she has been the co-founder and executive director of Womxn from the Mountain, a woman-led, Indigenous 501(c)3 nonprofit working to clean and protect our communities and our biosphere. Councilmember Chacon has also been a youth program coordinator with Spirit of the Sun/AmeriCorps VISTA, among other community-oriented positions.

Six applicants submitted valid applications to the city by the Jan. 4 deadline. Applicants each gave a five-minute presentation to the City Council during Monday's meeting, which included a public reception before the council reconvened to vote on the applicants and make the appointment. All six applications are available for public view at c3gov.com/Council.

Michael Storozum
Melinda Larson
Cassie Ratliff
Ashley Jackson III
Renee Millard-Chacon
Jose Guardiola

SACWSD welcomes new D&C Manager-Rachel Harlow-Schalk January 2023

The South Adams County Water & Sanitation District welcomes Rachel Harlow-Schalk as the new D&C manager. Mrs. Harlow-Schalk was born and raised in Colorado, but regularly would visit family in Butte, Montana where she witnessed the environmental impacts from copper mining that resulted in one of the United States' largest superfund sites. This inspired her to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Hazardous Waste Management, and eventually led to a Master's degree in political science with an Emphasis in Public Policy and Administration. Most recently she served as the City Manager for Montana's State Capital, Helena. Previously



she spent over 20 years at the City of Westminster, spending 15 years as the environmental law compliance manager, which included environmental permitting, property acquisition screening, and emergency spill cleanup/reporting. After her time at the City of Westminster she joined the State of Colorado's Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) as Director of Financial Assistance and moved into the role of Deputy Director of Local Government. Notably during her time with DOLA, she helped 3,300 cities, counties, and special districts across Colorado, by distributing nearly \$1 billion in funding, and establishing a statewide water/sewer treatment engineer expert position for small communities. When asked about her new role Mrs. Harlow-Schalk said, "My interest in public service and, really all the roles I have held, has been to be the best example of leadership I can in service to those who put their trust in me. This position brings me back to the technical space I started in and back home to Colorado." She is looking forward to future sunny days in Colorado, and the opportunity to take her kids out for a drive in her family's 1961 imperial.

PUBLIC ART INSTALLED JAN 2023

Annette Coleman's "Mid-Century, Mod-Cacti" art



Located in the center of the bus roundabout near the N Line commuter rail platform at Commerce City-72nd Station.

artist Annette Coleman crafted the recent addition to RTD's Art-n-Transit program along with JunoWorks, a custom metal fabrication studio in Commerce City specializing in art and architectural metal works. As described by Coleman, a Colorado native and lifelong artist. "This standalone sculpture of mid-modern-inspired cacti draws upon the history of the area and offers travelers a wayfinding gift."

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



Lee Claymore
Barrett & Miranda Jensen
Heather Lacrue
Karen Osburn
Maria Zubia
Craig & Candy Machuga

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS:

Barbara McMillan
Bob Hutchings
Rene' & Debra Bullock
Lee Claymore
Maria Zubia
Linda Andolsek
Sandra Carruthers

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

JAN-MARCH 2023

Bob Hutchings
Linda Andolsek
C.A.Barnick
Chuck Frauenfeld
Richard Hage
Cara Hubbell
Jerry Johnson
Carolyn Kerls
James Kinghorn
Mary Krenzer
Genice Landers
Teresa Muniz
Tom Schrah
Marilyn Teto
William Shelby
Dominic Teto
Harry & Margie Buschman
Ken & Marie Koger
Norma Russell

Member & Special Friends Obituaries...



William Shelby

June 29, 1948-February 20, 2023

William "Bill" Shelby, 74, passed away peacefully at his home in Commerce City on February 20, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. Bill was born on June 29, 1948, to William Elmer Shelby Jr. and Shirley Rae Collins of Denver. He was also brother to Kristine Kennedy, Kathy Collins (deceased) and Patty Shelby.

Bill married Barbara Sue Teto on December 27, 1975. They had two children, William Shelby Jr. "BJ" (Danyel) and Stephanie Sue Hines (James). Papa Bill adored his two grandchildren, Gianna Sue and William E. Shelby III "Will."

Early in life Bill learned the importance of hard work and instilled the same work ethic in his children. He was always there when help was needed, whether to help with homework or to provide a shoulder to cry on. Bill was a man that taught us the importance of family, hard work, and in doing what is right.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Kathy, his wife Barbara, his mother-in-law Lucille, and his father-in-law Paskey. He is survived by his children BJ (Danyel) Shelby, and Stephanie (James) Hines; his grandchildren Gianna and Will; his sisters Kristine and Patty; brother-in-law Domenic Teto (Maryann), sister-in-law Marilyn Teto, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Maryann F. Teto

April 19, 1945 ~ January 17, 2023 (age 77)

Maryann Teto, 77, passed away peacefully in her sleep at her home in Commerce City on January 17, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. She was born April 19, 1945, to Rubin and Margie Fellin of Denver. She graduated from Adams City High School.

She married Domenic Teto on January 24, 1976. Her children were Michael (Kathy) Reh, Marie (Jim Kummerow) Teto, and Angela Teto. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Maryann was a kind, caring and giving person who devoted her life to the love and care of children, especially her grandchildren, and she always put the needs of her family before her own. She was a loving woman who faced



every moment in her life with love and dignity. Our mother was a source of inspiration to us all and she will be deeply missed by everyone whose lives she touched.

Growing up, Maryann was always there for us, whether we needed help with our homework or just a shoulder to cry on. She was a woman of strong faith, and she instilled in us the importance of family, and doing what is right. Our mother was a true role model who we will always look up to.

Maryann was preceded in death by her parents, her mother-in-law Lucille, father-in-law Paskey, and sister-in-law Barbara (William) Shelby. She is survived by her husband Domenic, her children Michael (Kathy) Reh, Marie (Jim Kummerow) Teto, and Angela Teto; her grandchildren Kristoffer (Melody) Reh, Gabriel Reh, Kathlyn Leu, Jaylen Leu, and James Dennis; great-grandchildren Theodore "Bear" Reh, Caroline "Cowgirl" Reh, and Savannah Reh; siblings Eva (Dean) Colburn, Jo Ann Heinze, John (Dee) Fellin, Pat (Lory) Fellini and Mark (Amy) Fellini; sister-in-law Marilyn Teto, brother-in-law William (Barbara) Shelby and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Diantha D. Dickinson

November 21, 1958 ~ January 8, 2023 (age 64)



Diantha Denise Dickinson, 64, of Fort Lupton, CO passed quietly at her home on January 8, 2023. After a hard courageous fight with small cell lung cancer, she joined the heavenly choir with her husband of 46 years and 4 girls by her side.

Diantha was born on November 21, 1958 to Jesse and Betty (Bezona) Melton in Lamar, CO. She was the youngest of two children, and was lovingly referred to as Sis, a nickname that would carry with her throughout her life.

She spent much of her childhood seeing the country while her dad did road construction work until finally settling in Commerce City, Colorado. She was an active member of the Adams County 4-H program, completing many sewing, quilting and cooking projects. This kicked off a lifelong involvement in the 4-H program as a member, project leader, club leader, volunteer and behind the scenes supporter.

Diantha attended Adams City High School in Commerce City, where she graduated in 1976. Not one to let grass grow beneath her, she worked hard to complete her Cosmetology license from Valley Vista School of Cosmetology prior to graduating and hit the ground running as a cosmetologist right out of high school working at the Hair Hut in Brighton. She picked up clientele during those first few years that she kept as clients clear up to her medically required retirement in 2022.

Like most little sisters, Diantha loved to tag along and torment her older brother and his friends. One of those friends she met in 1972 would later become the love of her life. On December 4, 1976, Diantha married her one true love, Steve Dickinson in Henderson, CO. Headstrong and head over heels, she and Steve said I do just 2 short weeks after her 18th birthday and set off to make a wonderful life together.

Their family grew with the birth of their first daughter, Janeene Leigh in Kremmling, CO in March of 1979. Diantha spent most of that pregnancy working as a cook while Steve worked as a Ranch hand in Walden, CO. Shortly after, they moved to Dupont for a short time and then to a small farm house south of Brighton. In December of 1981, their family grew again with the birth of their second daughter, Lacy Jane in Brighton, CO. The two girls kept Diantha busy, but being a mom came natural to her. In true Diantha fashion, more is always better, so in July of 1983 the family grew by a third with the birth of twin girls, Stephanie Lyn and Samantha Jo.

Even though her hands were full with four young daughters, she would always find ways to help provide for her family. She spent time working at Palombo's Produce Stand just down the road from their house, helped countless people with their celebrations by creating memorable cakes, and continuing to put her cosmetology skills to work off and on.

In 1987 the family moved to Fort Lupton, CO where Diantha lived until her dying day. Always willing to do whatever it took to provide while still being ever present for her girls, she operated an in-home daycare, decorated cakes, and kept a small clientele of hair clients. She also took on part time jobs as a convenience clerk at the local oil company and as the friendly lunch lady for the local school food services. Being a hairdresser extraordinaire was her one true passion, and so she jumped at the opportunity to work full time as a hairdresser at The Short Cut in Fort Lupton.

She had the gift of gab, a listening heart and an encouraging nature that kept her salon chair full. Being a hairdresser was not a career, but a passion for her. Many tears, laughs, secrets, joys, concerns, and all around friendships were shared in her chair. In 2009 Diantha left the Short Cut to start her own in-home hair salon, called Diantha's Hair On The Go.

She spent her life being a cheerleader for Christ and being her daughters' biggest fan. Rarely did a sports competition, 4-H event, school dance, or broken heart go by without Diantha rallying in support. She taught her girls how to make any occasion extra...extra special and extra amazing. She truly was the definition of a giving heart, living her life in support of those around her.

She was a loving shepherd for her family's sheep herd, amazing bass in the church choir or any opportunity to sing, talented artist, and a gifted flower gardener. She loved collecting antiques, cooking a great meal, and having her family in her company. As her family grew, her world just got sweeter. Everything for Diantha revolved around her children, grandchildren, and most recently her great grandchild. Grammy, as she became known, was the instigator of fun, initiator of laughter, coordinator of chaos, and epitome of selfless love.

Diantha is survived by her husband of 46 years, Steve, their four daughters Janeene (Sean) Brown of Scottsbluff, NE, Lacy (Joel) Waight of Thornton, CO, Steph (Ruth) Guerrero of Hudson Oaks, TX, and Samme Sylvis of Northglenn, CO, grandchildren Mattie and Bowen Brown, A'leah and Thomas Waight, Aiden Guerrero, and Shea (Justin) and Ryley (Rebekka) Sylvis, great grandson Grayson Portales, father Jesse Melton of Granada, CO, brother Dean Melton of Granada, CO, sisters-in-law Anita Dickinson, Diana (Ric) Granzella and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles. She will also be missed immensely by her loving dog, Bill.

She was preceded in death by her mother Betty, niece Becky Melton, father-in-law Glen Dickinson, mother-in-law Leona Dickinson, brother-in-law Calvin Hoffman, sister-in-law Theresa Dickinson and two unborn grandchildren.



Jean Edwards

June 19, 1944-January 1, 2023

Brandon Michael Braud

MARCH 29, 1985 – JANUARY 1, 2023

Brandon Michael Braud, D.D.S., a Houston, Texas native and a prominent dentist in Commerce City, Colorado, passed away in his sleep at the age of 37 on the morning of Sunday, January 1, at his home in Denver.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday, January 15, at Forest Park The Woodlands Funeral Home and Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. A gathering of family and friends will be held there from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. Pastor Lynn Ripley, who baptized Brandon when he was sixteen, will conduct the services.

Brandon was born in Houston, TX on March 29, 1985, to Darlene Theriot Braud and Michael Paul Braud. He married Dr. Elizabeth Salazar after they met at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Dentistry, which they attended from 2008 to 2012. They have a son, Michael Nolan Braud, age three. After working with his uncle, Dr. Roy Perry Theriot, Jr., in the year following dental school, he started a dental practice in Commerce City, Colorado, which he and Dr. Salazar grew into one of the most successful practices in the region. They were awarded a Commerce City Business On the Move Award in 2016, and received recognition from Congressman Ed Perlmutter at the proceedings and debates of the 114th Congress of the United States, second session, where Congressman Perlmutter stated that the practice had “made an impact in Commerce City since the August 2012 opening, growing to 22 employees. Because they believe in giving back, Commerce City Family Dentist offers services to low-income residents and those who do not have health and dental insurance.” Dr. Braud cared deeply about his role in his community and was beloved by his patients, who praised his unique personal style, easygoing and fun-loving manner, and technical ability.

At the age of 16, he left home to attend Ozark Adventist Academy, a boarding school near Gentry, Arkansas, where he played basketball and was a National Merit Scholar. He was a talented musician, playing piano, percussion, the guitar and the bass guitar. He played piano for the praise team at Northwest Seventh Day Adventist Church and won many music awards growing up for piano and percussion. He had a band from his middle school years until the present day, practicing in a studio he built above his dental practice with his dental school classmate and colleague Dr. Evan Cettie. He enjoyed chess and billiards, loved to travel, and was an avid cowboy boot collector, owning over twenty pairs in every leather type imaginable.

He is survived by his loving wife, Dr. Elizabeth Salazar Braud, with whom he recently shared his eighth wedding anniversary, his son Michael Nolan Braud, his parents Darlene and Michael Braud, his grandmother Fern Case Theriot, his uncle Dr. Roy Theriot, Jr., his



twin sister Dr. Brandi Braud Scully, and her husband Dr. Peter Scully, his niece Matilda Scully, and his nephews Thomas Scully and Rudy Salazar.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Roy Perry Theriot, Sr., and his aunt Dr. Karen Theriot.



JESS DUBOIS

**JULY 6, 1934 –
DECEMBER 28,
2022**

Jesse DuBois was born on July 6, 1934, in Denver, Colorado. He graduated from the inaugural class of The Art Institute of Colorado in 1957.

DuBois then traveled the country to study with several established artists including Ray Vanilla, David Lafel, and Daniel Greene. As a Creole of Cherokee ancestry, DuBois was passionate about Indian art. He showcased it in his successful DuBois Gallery in Estes Park, Colorado until he was forced to close following the town's devastating 1982 flood. He subsequently returned to his native Five Points neighborhood in Denver, Colorado, where he cultivated the arts of glassblowing and sculpture, combining those skills with his existing media.

DuBois received The Lifetime Achievement Award at the 1988 Denver Black Arts Festival, where he was lauded for his ability to "Project the soul of his subjects onto canvas."

The Denver-area Regional Transportation District commissioned him to cast a bronze statue of Denver's first African-American doctor, obstetrician Dr. Justina Ford, which was dedicated in 1998. It can be viewed at the 30th & Downing Light Rail Station in Denver.

DuBois was one of three artists who received the Denver Mayor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts in 2004. He was inducted into the Art Institute of Colorado Hall of Fame that same year.

DuBois taught children's art in a number of local settings, continued to take art classes himself, and said his goal in life was "to get better and better."

DuBois died on December 28, 2022, at the age of 88.

JENNIFER SUSAN SCAFF

1962-2023



Back In Time...The Conter Property History:

The Conter farm owned by Bill and Catherine Conter was a wheat and barley farm located in Commerce City as far back as 1870. They also had a hog ranch located at approximately 56th and Holly Street (north side of 56th and east of Holly) and part of their farm was also leased by the Lungdren Family who ran it as a Dairy Farm located at (60th and Monaco Street). The Conter land boundaries were approximately East/Niagara Street, West/Holly Street, South/56th Avenue and North/61st Avenue. The streets as we know them today did not exist when this land was farmland. There were dogs, ducks, chickens, and an *Arabian welch* horse named Cuckklebur. Mr. and Mrs. Conter and their daughter Louise lived in the house on 56th and Holly until their divorce (early forties). After they were divorced Mr. Conter moved to a house at 60th and Glencoe Street, (5960 Glencoe). Mrs. Conter and Louise moved to Denver and later moved back to Commerce City to the farmhouse at 6505 Monaco, when the Lungdren family moved out.

Louise attended catholic schools and became a Nun. Her nickname was Billie. She transitioned from being a Nun to being an operating nurse at Mercy Hospital in Denver. She often wore a wool coat and a silk scarf along with rubber galoshes, even during the summer. Catherine, the mother, was a Homemaker and very reclusive and rarely seen. She had one favorite time of the year when she made *fudge* for the children in the area on Halloween.

The farmhouse at 6505 Monaco was an old red brick 2 story house facing south. Behind the house sat an old brick barn and a separate ramshackle wooden shed. An old blue Buick sat under a lean-to. The City had grown up around the old farm property. On the west, north and east, modest homes had been built since the early 50's. A small store and a lumber yard (Monaco Lumber) were the neighbors to the south. South of the lumber yard was land that the city acquired from the Conter property to build Monaco Park. The park property was needed for drainage detention purposes when storm sewers, curb, gutter, and sidewalks were constructed in the early 70's. There were indications, however, that the Conters' were not happy with the city and the land acquisition process.

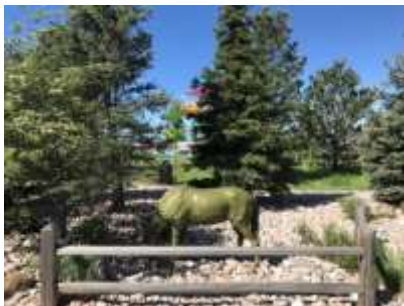
In 1975, the City Council adopted a zoning ordinance. The ordinance provided that within two years of the adoption of the ordinance, uses on residential zoned property must comply with the new ordinance. The Conter property was zoned residential and keeping the animals was not allowed and no longer allowed farm activity. In 1977 Catherine and Louise Conter were in big disagreements with the city over code violations. Brighton District Court Judge Dorothy E. Binder decided that 56-year-old Louise Conter must spend a month in jail and pay a fine for at least \$100.00 for refusal to remove the horse (cuckklebur). Horses aren't allowed in areas designated for residential use. Henry Barriner, a fiery opponent of many city policies helped the Conter women get Cuckklebur back on the farm to his home pasture. There was a "Welcome home Cuckklebur" party. However, the drama continued for many years with the ladies and the city over Cuckklebur. The women said they were just trying to maintain a family lifestyle that has been the norm since the Conter farm was established in 1870. Catherine Conter said that Cuckklebur was her whole life and her whole soul. Her love for the aging mare was planted as

a small child growing up on the same farm. “I’ve spent the best part of my life on the back of a horse,” she said.

The City Officials were not moved by the Conter’s lifelong attachment to horses and considered their decision to challenge the court order an obstruction to progress which Republican Senator William Armstrong and Bob Gehler, the city attorney, became involved with. An unsuccessful attempt at a variance from the Board of Adjustment just made matters worse.

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

In approximately 2003, the city of Commerce City purchased the land from Melody Homes after a failed attempt to build houses on this land. In 2004 Pioneer Park was opened with various phases of additions and was finished in July of 2015 with the addition of the water park (Paradise Island Pool). The Commerce City Housing Authority and Mr. McDermid purchased the land at 60th and Monaco to build The Conter Estates. The old farm buildings were demolished and the current Community Center was built in October 2004, where the house was located. The building was designed, and materials were selected to resemble the farmhouse and some original wood doors. Built in dressers were kept and built into the new building. This building has served as a Community Center, City Offices and now the First Museum in Commerce City. If you look closely in the landscaping near the northeast corner of Pioneer Park (Monaco & 60th), you can find a statue of a little horse (cuckklebur).




WHY JOIN THE COMMERCE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY...

- To learn and understand about the history of the community in which you live.
- To help preserve the history in the community in which you live 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 the history.
- Volunteer opportunities to help preserve your history.
- Gain an appreciation for where you live.

Membership Application

Commerce City Historical Society

Application for Membership

	NAME: _____
	Address: _____ _____
	Phone Number: _____ home _____ cell _____
	E-Mail _____
	Business Name _____

Annual Dues

***Please make checks payable to: Commerce City Historical Society,
6505 E. 60th Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado 80022***

Individual	\$10.00	_____ (per year)
Family	\$25.00	_____ (per year)
Memorial	\$50.00	_____ (per year)
Business/Corporation	\$100.00	_____ (per year)
Life Membership	\$500.00	_____ (one time)
Senior Lifetime Membership (Age 65 Plus)	\$250.00	_____ (one time)

Are you a Veteran? Yes___ No___ What Branch? _____

DATE PAID _____

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

Email Phone Mail

For questions, please call the museum office 303-288-2590

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Phone Calls _____
Work at the Museum _____

Working at Events _____
Moving Items _____