



FROM TIME TO TIME

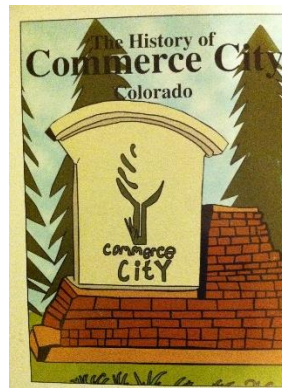
A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society

April-June 2021

Volume 12, Issue 2

COLORING BOOKS DISTRIBUTION

The CCHS board of directors and some of the Adams 14 School District board of directors handed out coloring books on Saturday April 17, 2021, at the museum. The *Commerce City History* coloring



books and reading books are still available

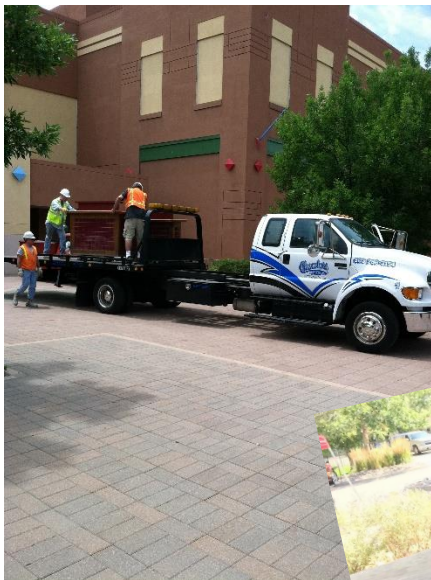
at the museum for any students in 2nd grade and 3rd grade for those that did not attend the drive through distribution. Come into the museum anytime we are open to get your books. We also now have a Spanish and Bi-Lingual coloring book thanks to Adams 14 SD Director Maria Zubia for the translation. We are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10AM to 2PM.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT... David Chambers

David Chambers a long-time Commerce City resident and owner of Chambers towing has been a CCHS volunteer, member, and supporter since the beginning of our historical society in 2009. He has moved many things for us. He was with us when we moved many items out of the dog track buildings, every time we dumpster dive, we call David. He has moved carriages, signs, dog track gates, show cases, you name it. When we call David, he is there for us. We want to thank you for being committed to preserving history for Commerce City!



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

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Phone: 303-288-2590 **Website:** cchistoric.com **Email:** cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com
www.cchistoric.com

Submissions for Newsletter

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

cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com, 303-946-3426

FROM TIME-TO-TIME NEWSLETTER

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Esther Hall, President, 303-249-1930

Pam Meier, Vice President, 303-901-7486

Debra Bullock, Secretary/Treasurer, 303-946-3426

Sheila Harris, Membership, 720-939-0582

Marilyn Godfrey, 719-651-5110

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

JoAnn Stevenson, Casey Hayes, Reba Drotar, Thelma Cole

WELCOME VISITORS

We are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday

from 10 am – 2 pm

Thank you for coming, however, please be mindful of the spreading of COVID-19. Please exercise social distancing among others when entering the facility.

OUT AND ABOUT IN COMMERCE CITY!

April 2021

April 8 -South Adams County Water & Sanitation softening unit ribbon cutting! ready and online. Softened Water is Now Flowing!



Softened water is now flowing throughout the South Adams County Water and Sanitation District! The John Ennis Water Softening Facility began processing softened water on



March 27. As the previous District water leaves the system there will be a transition to the fully softened water. Customers can expect a new hardness level of 7 gpg.



April 20

New public art piece installed at the Eagle Pointe Recreation Center



The city recently installed a new sculpture outside the Eagle Pointe Recreation Center located at 6060 Parkway Drive. Artist Jodie Bliss created "Path to Vitality" to encourage residents to reach for the sky in achieving their own wellness goals. The sculpture depicts a female figure holding a large eagle and features the artist's distinctive and intricate hand-forged ironwork. The city and the Commerce City Cultural Council commissioned the art with funding from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

She looks forward to bringing her experience and education to help the Commerce City Historical Society continue its mission to preserve the history of this wonderful and diverse area of the front range!

May 2021



New City Manager Hired

May 3, 2021 Commerce City, City Council hires Roger Tinklenberg as the permanent city manager. Roger has worked with the city since 2001 holding several different positions such as director of finance, administrative services officer, deputy city manager and interim city manager.

May 28, 2021-New Refuge Trails

Refuge trails south of 64th Avenue and at 96th Avenue and Chambers will be open to hiking, bicycling, and Class 1 e-Bikes. Parking lots at 56th Avenue and Uvalda Street, 56th Avenue and Chambers Road, and 96th Avenue and Chambers Road, provide additional visitor access. The Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail serves Commerce City residents and Denver area residents with new walking access onto the refuge.



June 2021

Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge

Saturday June 12, the Rocky Mountain National Wildlife Refuge board and staff celebrated in receiving a federal grant to continue programs and more development of the refuge trails.



Maria Zubia, Don Rangel and Dr. Karla Loria

On Thursday June 17, 2021, Adams 14 employees, local officials, friends, and family wished Don Rangel a great retirement and welcomed as the new Adams 14 School District Superintendent (Dr. Karla Loria) at the Veteran's Memorial Park.

ALSUP NEWS:

Please join us for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Alsup Elementary School on **Monday, July 19, at 4 p.m.** Hear from guest speakers and enjoy refreshments. Guided tours in both English and Spanish will be provided following the ceremony. Masks are required.

Alsup Elementary School
4413 E. 68th Ave.
Commerce City, CO 80022

If you are not able to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony, guided tours in both English and Spanish will be offered on Wednesday, July 21, and Thursday, July 22. These tours will take place during 20-minute intervals.



**THANK YOU RENEWING
MEMBERS**

APRIL – JUNE 2021

Norm Union

Donna Bailey

Dami Bullock

Terry Coon

Theresa Garcia

Dolores Harr

Ken & Carol Kenworthy

Barbara McMillan

James Kinghorn

Vivian Parker

Jim Deden

Casey & Marianne Hayes

Ernie & Nancy Atencio

Eddie & Chelsea Olivas



Ruth Adams

Richard Hage

Hazel Rogers

Marilyn Leeper Godfrey

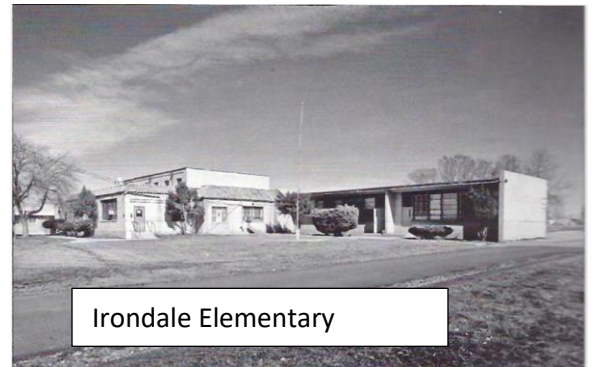
Renee Lovato Family



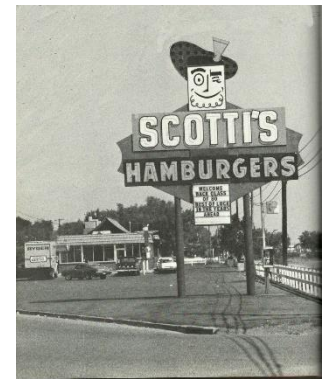
Cards for Sale \$10. Drop by the museum and get a deck of history cards. Great for presents!

Do you Remember...

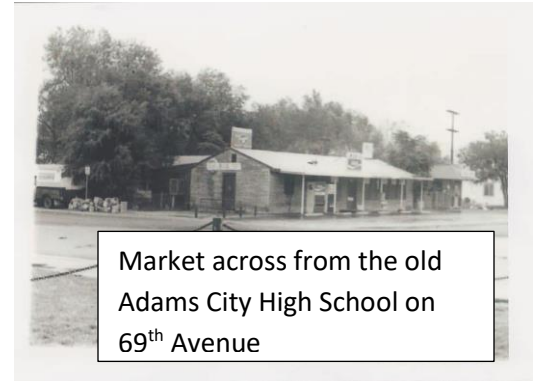
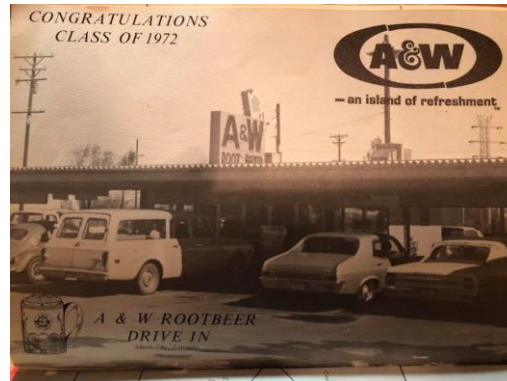
- ✓ The atlas & phone numbers?
- ✓ The Almanac local newspaper?
- ✓ The Ben Franklin store and Wolf's Sporting Goods store in Derby?
- ✓ Heiny's Shoe Repair in Derby?
- ✓ Buddy and Lloyds Supermarket on 80th Avenue?
- ✓ The A & W Root Beer stand on the corner of 69th and Hiway 6/85.
- ✓ Scotties Hamburger stand located at 6/85 and 69th west side where the 7-11 is now.
- ✓ Irondale Elementary School on Rosemary Street?
- ✓ Market by the old high school?
- ✓ Krogh Fieldhouse and swimming pool?
- ✓ Derby Plain Jane Club



Irondale Elementary



Inside Krogh Fieldhouse



Market across from the old Adams City High School on 69th Avenue



During the terrible depression, the government had clubs or programs for ladies (homemakers). They were called – Home Demonstration Clubs. One of the clubs in Commerce City was called – Derby Plain Janes. Some of the members in this club were: Margaret Swank, Dorene Dodson, Hazel Snyder, Keith Merilatt, Lorraine Miller, Mary Martin, Winnie Jergensen, Virginia Henderson, Edna Heel, Elizabeth Holmes, Eva Greenwalt, Helen Goto, Bobbie Crall, Ethel Gerlock, Orlanda Martinez, Vangie Rountree, Martha Reiche, Evelyn Moses and Gary Moses. The photo was taken at Bobbie Crall's home

Donate a vehicle

Donating your car, truck, van, SUV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, RV, trailer or airplane has never been easier! Simply to donate to, give us a call, and our trained staff will guide you through the donation process.

And FREE up your space for other things.

The Commerce City Historical Society has entered into an agreement with Car Easy - they will pick up your unused vehicles free, repair, sell and return the profit (after costs) to CCHS.

CCHS can use the money for operating expenses or other purposes. You will receive a tax receipt and the CCHS will receive a check for your donation!

Give it a try!

Commerce City Historical Society

Call 303.288.2590 or 303.946.3426



Schedule the Vehicle Pick up

In some areas, we will have the ability to schedule the vehicle for pick up during your initial call. In all other cases CARS will contact you within 2-3 business days to set a convenient appointment time for pick up. 303.288.2590 / 303.946.3426.

Debra or Esther will answer questions and pass on their telephone number.

6505 East 60th Avenue, Commerce City, CO 80022

WANTED – OLD LICENSE PLATES!!!

IF YOU WANT TO GET RID OF YOUR OLD LICENSE PLATES YOU CAN
DONATE THEM
TO THE
MUSEUM!



Moms Now Versus Moms Then....

MOMS NOW	vs.	MOMS THEN
"That word is inappropriate."		"Say that again and I'll wash your mouth out with soap."
"Good job trying one bite of the dinner I made. Now you can have Mac & Cheese."		"You'll eat what I make, whether you like it or not. There are starving children in the world."
"I can see you're upset. Take a deep breath and use your words."		"You better stop crying or I'll REALLY give you something to cry about."
"You can't walk around the block by yourself. I'll drive you. Text me when you need a ride back."		"You want to go out? Take your bike. Be home before dark."
"I packed your bento box with almond butter on whole grain, kale chips, and an organic smoothie."		"Take a brown bag with a bologna sandwich on Wonder Bread. Grab a Twinkie and a Hawaiian Punch too."

CCHS APPRECIATES OUR LIFETIME MEMBERS...

ADAMS 14 BOARD OF EDUCATION	CITY OF COMMERCE CITY
SOUTH ADAMS COUNTY WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT	SOUTH ADAMS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT
THE FAMILY OF KEVIN & RUTH PHILLIPS	ERNIE & NANCY ATENCIO
MAGNOLIA ENTERPRISES-HARLOW LEEPER	SANDRA CARRUTHERS & MAXINE GALINDO
JOE & LILLY ROYBAL	THE FAMILY OF HERB & SHIRLEY STERTZ
THE FAMILY OF GARY & REBA DROTAR	THE FAMILY OF STEVE & JOANN STEVENSON
DANNY & BETTY THOMAS	DERELL & CAROLYN YOUNGER

UPCOMING CCHS EVENTS:

JULY 17 – Membership meeting at the museum at 12:30 PM

AUGUST 9 – Board meeting 6PM

SEPTEMBER 12 – Casino Trip to Century Casino 1PM

SEPTEMBER 25 – CCHS Museum Annual Celebration 10-2

A TIME IN HISTORY....



Denver's hometown flea market!

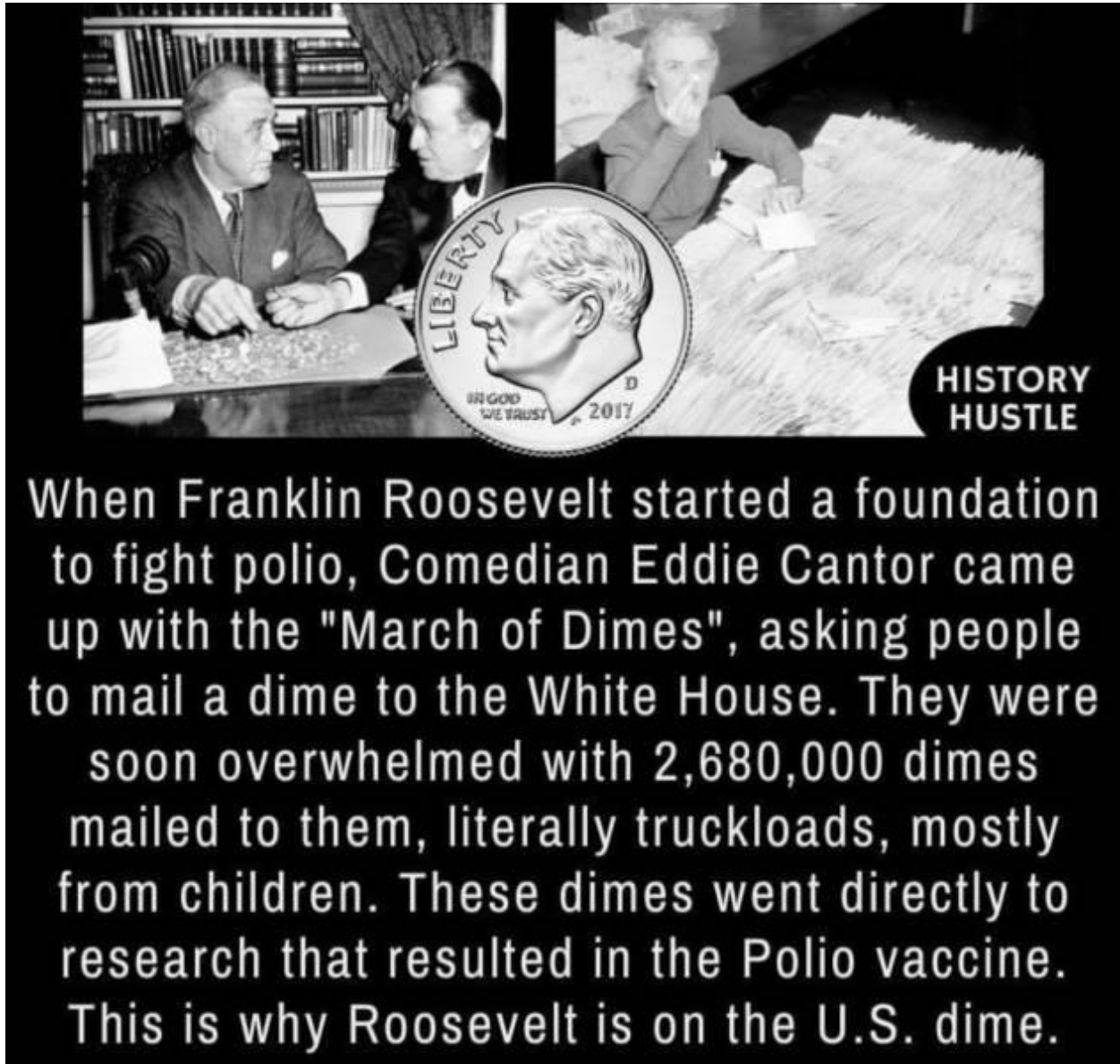
Mile High Flea Market—Denver's oldest and favorite flea market—has a rich history, heart and soul.

Our loyal shoppers looking for new and used items far below retail prices come back weekend after weekend to experience traditional, community-oriented, open-air shopping and incredible prices among friends, family and Denver's diverse population.

A fixture in the Colorado community, as well as a draw for visitors from the entire Rocky Mountain region, Mile High Flea Market was founded in 1976. In those days, people sold their wares in the parking lot of the Commerce City dog track. Ten years later, the flea market moved to its current 80-acre location at the corner of I-76 and 88th Avenue, where it has thrived for more than two decades.

Mile High Flea Market now houses the traditional flea market, open to anyone who wants to sell; a four-season farmers market; new covered shops; kids rides zone; food and beer stands; live music; and so much more. Open every weekend year-round, today Mile High Flea Market is home to over 2,500 weekend sellers and attracts more than a million visitors each year.

DID YOU KNOW?



When Franklin Roosevelt started a foundation to fight polio, Comedian Eddie Cantor came up with the "March of Dimes", asking people to mail a dime to the White House. They were soon overwhelmed with 2,680,000 dimes mailed to them, literally truckloads, mostly from children. These dimes went directly to research that resulted in the Polio vaccine. This is why Roosevelt is on the U.S. dime.

Reflections of a Boomer

I've seen fire and I've seen rain.
I've been through the desert on a horse with no name.

I've gone to Kansas City, I've sang in the sunshine.
I've been on the road again, with Georgia on my mind.

Like a rolling stone, I've given peace a chance.
I've put my camel to bed, and danced the last dance.

Mr. Tambourine man played a song for me,
I've whispered words of wisdom, let it be.

I've fell into a burning ring of fire, and walked the line,
To all the girls I've love before, you were always on my mind.

I've been everywhere, I've been so lonesome I could cry,
I've driven my Chevy to the levee when the levee was dry.

I've been to Itchycoo Park in a yellow submarine.
I've made the scene in a time machine.

I've done the Hokey Pokey and turned myself around.
I've welcomed baby back to the poor side of town.

I've followed the tracks of my tears down a long and winding road.
I've kept on searching for a heart of gold.

I've sought shelter from the storm, I've sat on the dock of the bay.
I've rocked around the clock, on a sunshiny day.

I've knocked on Heaven's door, blowing in the wind.
Joy to the world, those were the days my friend.

Lay lady lay, in crimson and clover.
It's been a hard day's night, the party's over.

Uncle Joe

Member & Special Friends Obituaries...

You can shed tears because they are gone, or you can smile because they lived. You can close your eyes and pray they will come back, or you can open your eyes and see all that they left for you. Your heart can be empty because you can't see them, or you can be full of the love you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember only that they are gone, or you can cherish their memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind and feel empty, or you can do what they would want. Smile, Open your heart, Love... and go on.

—Elizabeth Ammons
lessonslearnedinlife.com



MILFORD HALL JANUARY 4, 1950 – MAY 12, 2021



Milford Donald Hall, lovingly known as Mel, 71, of Commerce City, CO passed away on May 12, 2021. Mel passed peacefully surrounded his loving family at his family home. Mel was born in Maryville, MO to Roland and Hazel Hall on January 4, 1950. His family moved to Colorado in 1951, making Colorado Mel's home. He enjoyed camping and fishing in the great outdoors.

He worked as a Truck Driver for many years with his final workplace being with Shamrock Foods, where he worked for 38 years. Mel was always a hard worker, providing for his family over the years. He was an amazing driver, attending truck rodeos, even attending Nationals. His driving record was exemplary having over 3 million accident-free miles. Milford's greatest accomplishment was his family. He cherished his wife, children, and grandchildren. He was the foundation of his family, their rock. Mel is survived by his loving wife of 43 years Margaret. His son Justin (Jennifer). Daughters, Tina & Melissa (James). His grandchildren, Dylan,

Tessa, Ashton, Willow, Nahlah, Krystal, Samantha, Ashley & Miranda. Two great-grandchildren, Stephen & Lyla. Brothers, Terry (Micki), Harley (Esther), Frank (Janet), Jerry (Cathy), Sister, Diane (Frank). Sister-in-law, Virginia (Larry), Darleen (Dennis), Jarda (Eric), Lynn, Gina (Dave), Sandy (Ryck). Brother's-in-Law, Billy (Mike), Keith (Diana). He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews. His faithful mut, Scrappy. He is preceded in death by his Father, Mother, Son, Doug and one Grandson, Michael. Services and burial were held at the Archdiocese of Denver Mortuary Chapel and Mount Olivet Cemetery, on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

YOSHIO AKIYAMA

OCTOBER 4, 1930 – APRIL 12, 2020



Yoshio Akiyama was born October 4, 1930, in Orange County, California to Kichiro and Yukio Akiyama. Yosh was the 6th of 8 children. Children: Ben, Dorothy, George, Hanae, Mas, Yosh, Sam and Yeichi. With the signing of Executive Order 9066, the US government gave them 48 hours to move out of Ocean Side, California, or be placed into an internment camp. In March of 1942, the Akiyama family relocated to Colorado in an old, beat-up pickup truck. Once in Colorado, Yosh attended Libby School in Welby and Adams City High School in

Adams County. Yosh joined the Navy in 1950, served until 1954, where he received early discharge due to his father's death. Yosh met Sumi Tawara in 1950 and they married on October 30, 1952. Yosh had a passion for fishing, bowling, gardening, gambling, traveling, and watching his children compete in sports. He also enjoyed his grandchildren's sporting events and other activities. Yosh is survived by wife Sumi, and brothers Mas (Aki) and Sam Akiyama. Children: Sharon (Mitch), Linda (Melvin), Cindy (Gary), Glenn (Linda) and Dave (Teresa). Grandchildren: Summer, Craig, Nicole, Michelle, and Justin. Great-grandchildren: Abby, Min, Emma, Rafe and Sophia. The Service was held at noon on Saturday, May 8, 2021, at Holiday Bowling and Billiards 10350 W. Colfax Ave. Lakewood, CO 80215 with a celebration of life that followed the service.

ARTHUR TOWERS

JANUARY 8, 1931 – May 21, 2021

Arthur (Art) Towers, 90 of Montrose, CO passed away peacefully on May 21, 2021. He was born in Burlington, CO January 8th, 1931, to Marion and Opal Towers. He served on the school board of Adams County District 14 and was



president for several years. He also served on the South Adams County volunteer fire department for a number of years and was Fire Chief from 1973 through 1975. He was also involved with the boy scouts and was a boy scout leader for Troup 121 for several years. He started his own Tax Practice in Commerce City in 1954 and eventually sold it and started one in Parker, Colorado where his daughter Deborah joined him in the business. He eventually semi-retired and moved to Montrose, Colorado where he and his wife Carol had their own tax practice. The front range practice was then taken over by Deb, Wanda & Gale. He was

preceded in death by his father Marion, his mother Opal, his sister Vonnie, brother Lester, sister Violet Windell and brother Robert. He was also preceded in death by his first wife Cora and grandson Jason. He is survived by his wife Carol his son's Dale Towers and Donald Towers and his daughter's Gale Hatley (Gene Hatley), Deborah Towers (Wanda Sellers) and Kathy Rossi (Tony Rossi), his stepdaughter's Carrie Lovato and Sherry Lovato, numerous grandchildren and

great grandchildren and nephews and nieces. He will be remembered for his kind heart and helping hand. We know he is with the Lord now, because of his unwavering faith. He will be missed greatly by all those who loved him. A celebration of his life was held on June 26, 2021.

Robert Robbins

June 2, 1934 – May 14, 2021

Robert “Bob” Robbins, 86 of Commerce City, CO. passed away peacefully on May 14th, 2021. He was born in Hawk Springs, Wyoming on June 2nd, 1934, to Harry and Edith Robbins. Bob married Donna Dinnel on August 13, 1954. Together they had one daughter. Bob was an avid sports enthusiast. He enjoyed watching the Denver Broncos, Colorado Rockies, and NASCAR. He enjoyed his years of service with South Adams County Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as a Chief and member of the department’s running team. He was a jack of all trades when it came to jobs. He worked for Public Service, sold houses for Jean’s Realty, drove charter buses for Colorado Charter Lines and a bus for students with special needs for Adams County School District 14. His favorite job by far, was for Danella Rentals. He loved to deliver trucks, and log loaders all over the country for the railroad. He is preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Edith Robbins, brother Don Robbins and daughter Denise VanMetre. Bob is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Donna, granddaughter, Alicia, and older brother, Harry “Frank” Robbins and many nieces and nephews and friends. There is no formal memorial service planned at his request. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date this summer.





Robert Lay

**May 7, 1932 ~ June 8,
2021 (age 89)**

Robert W. Lay, 89, passed away June 8, 2021, at his home in Commerce City, Colorado. His memorial service will be held June 18, 2021, at 11 am at Grace Baptist Church, Commerce City, Colorado.

Robert (Bob) was born on May 7, 1932, in Montrose, Colorado. He was raised in Rico by William and Caroline Lay with his two brothers Gilbert and Richard. His mom and the boys moved to Montrose when Gilbert was ready for high school. His father stayed in Rico and continued to work in the mine for several more years. He met his soul mate, Joyce A. Miller, during high school. He graduated a few years before her and he left for New York, to run a Dairy Farm with his best friend, Bill Martin. Joyce graduated, did a semester of college but then she followed him to New York where they soon got married (April 10, 1955) and started their family. They moved back to Colorado in 1957 where they raised their 2 sons and daughter, Earl S. Lay, Randy W. Lay, and Renita S. Henson.

Bob enjoyed working on race cars, hunting, and fishing in his free time. He was a volunteer firefighter for South Adams County Fire Department, where he later retired. He and Joyce attended Adams City Baptist Church and then later Grace Baptist Church in Commerce City.

The family Earl Scott (Peggy) Lay, Renita (Larry) Henson and Randy Lay has grown through the years. There are 5 grandchildren, Amy (Ryan) Broda, Mark (Angela) Lay, Andrew (Kristy) Lay, Brian (Kerry) Lay and Krisandra (Jonathan) Walker. 9 Great Grandchildren and 2 Great-Great Grandchildren. Bob is preceded in death by his parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and many cousins.

Bob contracted Rheumatic Fever at the age of six, so he missed a whole year of school. This resulted in the rest of his school years being in the same class as his younger brother, Dick. He said he was sad that because of the heart murmur he had as a result of the fever, he could never play sports and was relegated to be the water boy.

He worked in a service station when he moved back to Colorado where he and Joyce's brother started working on race cars. They had so much fun being a part of racing. You could find the family at the race track most Saturday's. When Randy was in Kindergarten, Joyce agreed to take on the contract for a Rural Star Mail Route. The route served Parker, Franktown, Elizabeth, Kiowa, and Elbert. It did not take too long, and Bob left the service station and started driving the star route. He drove this until Scott graduated high school and could take the route over because the fire department had offered Bob the position as their maintenance person. He was very excited with this offer because it got him back to his mechanical talented area of expertise. He remained in this position until he retired in 1992.

Bob loved being a volunteer fireman. He volunteered for 40 years. It was there he built many friendships and had camaraderie with his fellow firefighters. This was one of the areas that shaped the man he was, and it was definitely a favorite place and activity for him. He was proud to be a part of South Adams County Fire Department.

When asked what his favorite thing was / or part of his life was, he responded after several moments of thought, that it was the time he got to spend doing things with his family. He spoke of the one and only large family vacation we took to New York to see the World's Fair and visiting friends and eating clams and then going back to the dairy to visit Bill and his family. He spoke of times spent up at the cabin. He spoke of time together at holidays over the years. He loved being with his family and seeing all the new relationships and babies that added to the numbers.

He told stories several times over the years of his hunting adventures with his father-in-law and then in later years the hunting trips with his sons. These stories came up frequently at family gatherings. He loved fishing and missed it every day. When he could no longer tie the lure onto the line, he was very sad and frustrated. He spoke frequently of wanting to go fishing during his last months.

Attending church with Joyce at Grace Baptist he found new friends and built close relationships. The church gave him new purpose after he had retired from firefighting. He was able to contribute and be active and needed.

He felt his greatest contributions were to be able to save many lives in his time being a firefighter and all that he gave back to his church. He felt he lived a full and complete life. He loved his family and the Lord.

Bob Lay was an incredible man. Memories of him will live on in the minds of all that knew him. These words are from his oldest son but felt strongly by all his children and grandchildren:

Dad was a great man. Through our lives he taught us everything we needed to be good adults and how to raise our families and teach our children what they needed to be happy, strong, and kept the tradition going.

No one could replace him.

We all loved him dearly.

Love you Dad, You're the Best

Services were held at Grace Baptist Church, Friday, June 18 at 11 am in Commerce City, CO 80022 Reception at the church following the funeral.

Phil Perez

June 11, 1937 ~ April 27,
2021 (age 83)

Phil was born to Joe and Nellie Perez in a small farmhouse seven miles East of Longmont, Colorado. Phil was the oldest of 10 children.

He spent the majority of his life in the Commerce City area. Due to a severe automobile accident when he was 17, he was unable to finish high school, so on May 13, 1968, he received his GED.

He later received his Associates degree in Criminology from Arapahoe Community College while he was in the Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group.

He served with the US Air National Guard of Colorado and received an Honorable Discharge for Honest and Faithful Service on June 10th, 1962.

Phil worked for National By-Products, Bromley Sand and Gravel, Commerce City Police Department, Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Group, but spent most of his time in the construction business. Along with working for several different



construction companies, he was a successful entrepreneur and co-owned, PHD. The construction he was most proud of was the installation of Colorado Historical signs throughout the state.

In October of 1997, Phil was named and awarded Colorado Minority Enterprise Development Week Minority Contractor of the year. In December of 1997, Phil traveled to Washington D.C. as a guest of the U.S. Department of Transportation and received a Successful Minority Entrepreneur Award. Phil continued working in the construction field until he was diagnosed with and beat cancer in 2008, which allowed him 13 more years of travelling and enjoying life.

Phil is survived by his partner in life, best friend, and companion - Donna, his children: Virginia (Ron), Pat, Susan (Bob), Drew (Kolleen), Anita (Danny), his stepdaughters: Lydia (Fred), Barbara (Ace), his sisters: Eleanor, Mary Louise, Mary Ann (Ricardo), Lupe, twenty-two grandchildren, twenty great grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Phil is preceded in death by both of his parents; three sisters: Florence, Josephine and Virginia; brothers Robert and Joe; and his stepdaughter Vickie as well as the mothers of his children; Anita and Virginia.

Funeral services were held at Tabor Funeral Home in Brighton, Colorado and internment was at Mizpah Cemetery in Platteville, Colorado.



Belen Flores

**November 7,
1938 - March 16, 2021**

Belen Flores was born on 11/7/1938 in Chihuahua, Mexico, she is survived by her husband of 59 years Jose J Flores from Commerce City Colo. and 5 children, Laura D Leanos, John Flores, Micheal Flores, Jose A Flores, and Janice Bonilla. Grandchildren,

Semaraim, Shaylene, Isabella, Kristy, Irina, Daniel, Luis Antonio, JJ, Belen, Rebecca and 12 great grandchildren. A small ceremony was held on March 24, 2021 at 3pm at Aspen Mortuary.

Lois Eugenia Matthew Bertapelle

September 25, 1925 ~ May 28, 2021 (age 95)



Lois Eugenia Matthew Bertapelle died on 28 May 2021 at her son's home in Lakewood, Colorado. She was born on 25 September 1925 in Augusta, Montana to Louis Maximillian and Alberta Mary Margaret Berube Matthew. Louis delivered her because the midwife did not make it in time. She was the seventh of eight children, the youngest girl.

Lois moved several times until 1935 when her family settled in Missoula, Montana. She graduated from Missoula County High School in 1943. During WWII she was a telegraph operator for the Northern Pacific Railroad.

She married Antonio Enrico Bertapelle on 6 February 1946 in Deer Lodge, Montana. When he enlisted into the U.S. Air Force in 1948, they were sent to Rantoul, Illinois. In 1958 they moved to Derby (now Commerce City), Colorado. She was a member of Grace Baptist Church in Commerce City. She was a Girl Scout Leader supporting her daughters. She created an unofficial pre-school in her basement for neighbor kids because Derby did not have any. She volunteered at the Commerce City Senior Center and was selected as Volunteer of the year in 2004.

Her biggest achievement was raising us five kids and keeping her sanity!

She lived there until March 2016 when she moved in with her son and daughter-in-law. She loved babies, chocolate, and strawberries.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents, and all her siblings Dick, Florence, Albert, Alberta, Sally, John and Mark. Her husband and one daughter, Janice Kay Bertapelle-Anderson also preceded her in death.

She is survived by her son Anthony (Connie) of Lakewood, Colorado, and daughters Alberta (David) Farnsworth of Tucson, Arizona, Linda (Terry) Bullington of Woodinville, Washington, and Alice (Scott) Ingram of Spring Texas, and son-in-law Jim Anderson of Brighton, Colorado. She is also survived by 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, 7 great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at Fort Logan National Cemetery on Tuesday, 29 June 2021 at 2:00 PM and a reception at her son's residence following the service.

Selah Joy Trujillo

DECEMBER 30, 1961 – APRIL 18, 2021

Selah Joy Trujillo was born to Lois Straight and Robert Straight in Waukegan, Illinois on December 30th 1961. Selah passed away in Denver, Colorado on April 18th, 2021, at the age of 59. She courageously fought lung cancer for the past eight months. Throughout her illness, she remained positive and a constant pillar of strength.



Selah was an avid baker and family oriented. She was a stay-at-home mom for part of her children's upbringing which included being their primary educator during homeschooling. She later went to work in the Social Services sector where her positive attitude and kind heart impacted many people. She had a joy for life and a smile that would light up any room.

She is survived by her father Robert Straight, Sister; Nancy Myers, brother; Stephen Singletary, Mother-in-law; Martha Applegarth, Husband; Vern Trujillo, Son; Brandon Trujillo, Daughter; Amber Trujillo and three grandchildren: Abriana, Dravyn and Marlayna. She is preceded in death by her mother Lois Straight and loving dog of 14 years, Rogue Trujillo.

Her funeral service was held at 11:00 am on Saturday May 1st, 2021, at Olinger Highland 10201 Grant Street Thornton, CO 80229. A celebration of life reception was held at 12:30pm on May 1st at Westminster City Park Recreation Center 10455 Sheridan Blvd., Westminster, CO 80020.

Martha Ester Applegarth

JANUARY 28, 1928 – JULY 4, 2021



Martha Applegarth was born on January 19th, 1928 in San Pedro, California. Martha passed away in Commerce City, Colorado on July 4th, 2021, at the age of 93. She is survived by her two sons, Vern, and Gary Trujillo. Martha is preceded in death by her husband, John Applegarth; daughter, Bennie Catuccio; son, Richard Trujillo; and daughter-in-law, Selah Trujillo.

Visitation will be Friday, July 16, 2021 from 4-6pm at Olinger Highland Mortuary, 10201 Grant Street, Thornton. Funeral Service will be Saturday, July 17, 2021, 11:30am with Entombment to follow, all at Olinger Highland Mortuary & Cemetery.

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Membership Application

Commerce City Historical Society

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***Please make checks payable to: Commerce City Historical Society,
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Individual	\$10.00	_____ (per year)
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Life Membership	\$500.00	_____ (one time)
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Are you a Veteran? Yes ___ No ___ What Branch? _____

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

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