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www.ConiferHistoricalSociety.org

# CHSM

## Conifer Historical Society and Museum

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### One Hundred Years Ago...

by Elaine Hood



This Morning's Cold Gray Dawn in Denver

*This cartoon appeared on the front page of the Nov. 1, 1911, Rocky Mountain News. This was, of course, the morning following Halloween, so the artist depicted the mayhem left by hooligans.*

Everyone enjoys picking up an old magazine or newspaper and laughing at the hairstyles, reading the ads, and seeing what was deemed important enough to make the news.

The Norm Meyer family donated bound editions of *The Rocky Mountain News* to CHSM. The editions range from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. The very fragile pages are filled with history, not only from Colorado, but the world, and laced with ads that now amuse us.

Years Ago continued on page 3

**\* DID YOU KNOW \***

The cross on Mt. Lindo was placed in operation in 1964.

(If you are reading this online, click on the bold words to take you to websites associated with those words. Make sure your browser is set to allow pop-ups.)

*CHSM's mission is to share the region's legacy by collecting, preserving and exhibiting historical and cultural materials and providing public access to services, collections, exhibits and a research library.*

This issue of CHSM can be found at:  
[www.ConiferHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.ConiferHistoricalSociety.org)

# A Letter to the Community

by Janet Shown, CHSM President

*The Board of Directors of the Conifer Historical Society and Museum (CHSM) is pleased to announce that it has received a grant in the amount of \$8,998 from the **State Historical Fund and History Colorado** for the purpose of conducting a Historic Structure Assessment of the Norm Meyer home, also known as the Midway House, located on US 285 in Conifer.*



*Please enjoy the following project narrative co-written by members of the Meyer museum project committee consisting of Lucy Bambrey, Bob Carper, Elaine Hood, Suzi Morris, Jeff Polk, Janet Shown and Mike Sullivan.*

The State Historical Fund and History Colorado have contracted with the Conifer Historical Society and Museum for the work to be conducted between Sept. 28, 2011, and Sept. 28, 2013, by **Gerou and Associates, Ltd. of Evergreen**. Phil Gerou, principal, and Melissa Baker of Gerou and Associates will coordinate efforts and conduct field assessments of the electrical, mechanical and structural elements of the home by their firm along with mechanical, electrical, and structural engineers. Additionally, a preliminary preservation plan will be developed, including an estimate of the probable cost of construction and renovation which would be needed to transform the private home into a public museum.

This Historic Structure Assessment (HSA) will provide a principal indicator of the next steps for the Conifer Historical Society and Museum and the Norman Meyer family as they seek to determine the viability of

creating a museum in the Midway House and a living history site on the surrounding 91 acres.

The project focuses on the Midway House as the most important and visible of the property's buildings.

The Midway House, known locally as the Meyer home, was listed on the **National Register of Historic Places** in 1990 in acknowledgement of its contribution to

the transportation, ranching, and cultural heritage of Colorado. Its historic significance includes its embodiment of the history of U.S. western migration as well as its unique place in the history of rural settlement, growth and survival in Conifer and Colorado, and its excellent representation of a well-preserved Queen Anne style home.

The Midway House was built in 1889 on land homesteaded in the 1860s along the Bradford Toll Road.

Norman F. and Ethel E. Meyer purchased the 330-acre ranch in 1950 and moved in with their four young children, and later added another 300 acres to the property. The family carefully updated specific features of the historic house, chiefly during the 1950s, while respecting its structural and historic integrity. They preserved several important features, including door transoms and stained glass windows, door hardware, flooring, trim, handrails and newel posts for the front stair case, wallpaper in the entrance way, roof crest metalwork, two porches, and a wooden board found by Norman

*Letter continued on page 4*

## Board of Directors

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CHSM is published quarterly for the Conifer Community, past, present, and future. It is intended to be an online publication with limited hardcopy distribution. Story ideas and contributions are encouraged. The photo of Norm Meyer's yellow house on the front page was taken by Lana Turner. Editor: Elaine Hood hood1959@yahoo.com

Years Ago continued from page 1

What was important one hundred years ago this autumn?

The two big headlines in the November 1, 1911, edition were about local issues.

### City-County Merger Soon in Full Swing.

Denver probably will be under a single set of city and county officers this afternoon or tomorrow, for the first time since the dual government was re-established in the city and county. Papers from the United States supreme court that the federal court was without jurisdiction in the consolidation case, will arrive in the city this afternoon or tomorrow morning. The state supreme court will then issue its order putting its decision into effect. It is understood that the mayor will announce his appointments as soon as he receives this order.

The article later stated:

The rumor is out that Mayor Speer contemplates the appointment of C.C. Worrall to succeed Arnold. If it were possible for him to carry out this plan, the assessments would be in the hands of the city hall machine and the economical benefits of the consolidation would then be obviated, as the assessments would promptly soar to fill the maw of the machine with the usual number of jobs.

The other main headline was

### Save Lands From Blight, is Slogan of Farmers Who Hold Mass Meeting Today.

Tomorrow afternoon the farmers of Larimer and Weld counties, who are dependent upon reservoirs for practically all of their water irrigation, will hold a mass meeting here on the complaint of the direct irrigationists of the South Platte valley. While it is problematical what action will be taken, this seems to be the general opinion:



**GOLDEN EAGLE**  
L.H. GULDMAN, PRES. F.D. GULDMAN, MGR.  
DRY GOODS CO.

**TODAY FROM 2:00 TO 4:00 P. M.**  
WE WILL DISPLAY IN OUR SIXTEENTH STREET  
SHOW WINDOWS—ON A LIVING MODEL—THE  
**NEW HOOP-SKIRT GOWN**

WHICH COMES DIRECT FROM OUR PARIS OFFICE. THIS IS POSITIVELY THE FIRST SHOWING OF THIS GOWN WEST OF CHICAGO AND EVERY WOMAN IN DENVER SHOULD SEE IT. THE VERY NEWEST OF STYLE CREATIONS. There is a quaint attraction about this gown with its new empress effect, extreme high waist and hoop-skirt. It is made of silk marquisette in the new burnt orange shade, delightfully contrasted by the cream lining of satin facings, enchantingly trimmed with ermine fur and chenille fringe. We want everyone in this city to come down today and see this gown, just to prove that The Golden Eagle leads in style as well as underselling.

**Entire \$50,000 Stock of the Up-to-Date Shoe Store, Chicago, Ill., Sold for Cash to the Golden Eagle at 30c and 40c on the Dollar**

THE SALE OF THIS MAMMOTH SHOE STOCK CONTINUES TODAY. COME WITH THE CROWDS AND YOU WILL SAVE ENOUGH ON ONE PAIR TO BUY ONE OR TWO MORE.

**Women's \$3 and \$3.50 Dress Shoes at \$1.48**



Here are some of the makes in this lot: THE GLENDALE SHOE, MADDINS SHOE CO., THE RADCLIFF SHOE, SYMONDS SHOE CO., D. CURRING SHOE CO. and other famous makes of shoes which we are not allowed to print. We want you women who are used to a particular brand to come and see these shoes. They are made of patent ideal kid, vici kid, Russian tan calf and gunmetal calf, in lace and button styles, Cuban and military heels; genuine hand-welted and hand-turned soles; regular \$3 and \$3.50 values, and that is the price the Up-to-date Shoe Company got for them; all sizes, at, pair.....

\$1.48

**MEN'S DRESS SHOES, VALUES UP TO \$3.50, AT \$1.50.**

One big lot of Men's Finest Grades of Shoes, some in box calf, vici kid, leather and gunmetal calf; all genuine Goodyear welted soles, blucher and button styles; shoes in this lot worth up to \$3.50, only..... **\$1.59**

Little Children's Finest Grades of Shoes; come in patent leather, vici kid and fancy colored tops; lace and button; genuine hand-turned soles; worth up to \$1.50; only..... **69c**

Misses' All Solid Leather Shoes, for hard wear; come in dongola kid, double extension soles; blucher cut, patent tip; \$1.50 values..... **98c**

**RUBBERS.**

Men's Pure Gum Storm Rubbers..... **55c**

Men's Pure Gum One-Buckle Axtles and Snow Excluders; \$2.50 value..... **\$1.48**

There will be an organization perfected of the reservoir and ditch people of Weld and Larimer counties. An executive committee will be elected that will have full authority to take such legal action as may be deemed necessary for the protection of the reservoirs.

Possibly this executive committee, and if not another committee to be appointed, will visit the farmers of the South Platte valley and explain the reservoir situation of Larimer and Weld counties.

Denver politics and water issues were the big headlines, which would lead some to say times have not changed that much.

Other articles have more meaning once you put them into the perspective of historical context. This article, *Scientist is Killed; Dashed to Earth from Glider*, goes on to explain that a professor died after his "aeroplane glider" crashed during his experiments in the foothills of California.

When one remembers that the Wright Brothers had pioneered flight in 1903, and this newspaper was printed a mere 8 years later, you recognize that this man was a contemporary "aerospace engineer" with the Wright Brothers.

In 1911, the term socialist did not have the connotation it does today. Socialism was a theory argued by intellectuals, but it would not manifest itself as a form of government for another five years when the Russian Revolution began in February 1917. It is useful to keep that in mind as you read the headline, *Socialists in Lead in Los Angeles Primary Vote*.

Job Harriman ran for LA mayor twice, losing both times. He had also previously run for Vice President of the United States on the Eugene Debs ticket in 1900. (William McKinley won that presidential election.)

Years Ago continued on page 4

However, as interesting as the news was a century ago, it is the ads that immediately draw our chuckles.

*Men What you Need* is an ad for some type of medicine that will cure varicose veins, tissue waste, lost strength and blood disease!



And the Golden Eagle Dry Goods Company had the latest fashions for sale:

*Today from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, we will display in our sixteenth street show windows – on a living model – the new hoop-skirt gown which comes direct from our Paris office. This is positively the first showing of this gown west of Chicago and every woman in Denver should see it.*

The ad continues on to advertise shoes and lists several brands of shoes "...and other famous makes of shoes which we are not allowed to print."

It begs the question, why couldn't they print the shoe brands?

The front and back side of the first page of this newspaper is available for you to read online as a PDF on our website.

1. Go to [www.ConiferHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.ConiferHistoricalSociety.org)
2. Click on the **Conifer Area History** link
3. Scroll to the bottom and click on **Nov. 11, 1911 Rocky Mountain News**

We are sure you will enjoy reading about "the good old days."

Meyer, Sr. which has a hand-penciled statement about the origins of the home.

In the 1980s, the family worked with **Jefferson County Open Space** to preserve 397 acres of unspoiled Meyer Ranch pastures on either side of Highway 285. After selling additional parcels, the remaining acreage includes an 11-acre home site and 80 additional acres of ranch land.

Should the Meyer Family and Conifer Historical Society and Museum determine that the museum project is a viable one for the Meyer Ranch and Midway House, fundraising strategies would include a diverse field of options. Chief among these would be direct appeals to donors across the region and Colorado, as well as special events, raffles, partnerships with other organizations, and grant requests. Grant requests may include requests to the **State Historical Fund**, government-owned, contractor-operated (GOCO) organizations, private and public granting foundations, and scientific organizations. Operations funding would include admission charges as well as interpretive and educational activities, including but not limited to tours and rentals of historic property buildings, an events center, a gift shop and book store, exhibits, demonstrations, chuck wagon cookouts, festivals, Christmas activities, antique shows, craft demonstrations, oral history and theater productions, and other activities designed to educate and connect people with the local and state history.

The Board of Directors of the Conifer Historical Society and Museum expresses its deep appreciation to the Norm Meyer family, past and current CHSM board and committee members, and its many donors for their support and contributions to this project.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Call us for reservations: 720.333.0223

- October 19 History of the Clifton House at Aspen Peak Cellars
- October 22 CHSM Retreat; Conifer Community Church
- November 5 Silent Auction at CNN Holiday Boutique, Conifer HS
- November 9 CHSM Board Meeting; Conifer Community Church, 6 pm
- January 11 CHSM Board Meeting; Conifer Community Church, 6 pm