

### The other forts



Years ago I did a story about forts in the area. The first structure built by a white man in El Paso county was in what would become Fountain. There is an old stone wall down at Wigwam. It seems the stone wall was probably built by John Irvine in about 1860. He had settled at the spot south of Fountain around the same time as others settled our community. He had two sons, John Junior and M.B., who would later be an early mayor in Colorado Springs. The fort was said to be the first floor of a huge house. The wall was about 5 feet tall; some reports say that Irvine's house was built on them. An old newspaper story even tells of Irvine having stacks of rifles ready for any difficulties! There is no sign now of any building on the walls. At any rate, today the walls can still be seen. It was used as a corral for a long time.

Forts were not separate structures in those seen in this area, but were built into homes. There were such in Monument and Fountain, as well as Colorado City. There was another on the Mason place, just north of the Irvines'. The Indians had a technique where they shot flaming arrows onto roof tops, so forts had fireproof roofs. Small sturdy structures were built of stone, with earthen or sheets of red stone on the roof and used as forts. It is said that the Masons had two small stone buildings which were home forts. There are no such raids known in the area, but there were problems at times.

The first buildings in Fountain, like here in Colorado City, have long since gone. The most interesting were the stage stops along the way. The stage ran from Pueblo along Fountain Creek, up to Colorado City, around the mesa following about 30th Street to Garden of the Gods Road, then up along Monument Creek northward.

The Indians were fairly peaceful in this area. The problems were usually caused by Indians who were "visiting" from out on the plains. It was enough of a threat that forts were occasionally needed. The fort in Colorado City is said to have been used at least once. It is thought that this "fort" did have a wall around it, since timber was easier to get here. The story of Jimmy Camp up along the creek with that name seems to include an Indian raid or two. The marker on the site in Colorado City was stolen, but has now been replaced. People drive by the Wigwam wall and never know its significance!

# Pages of the Past

(1958 - Present)



### Sixty Years Ago (1961)

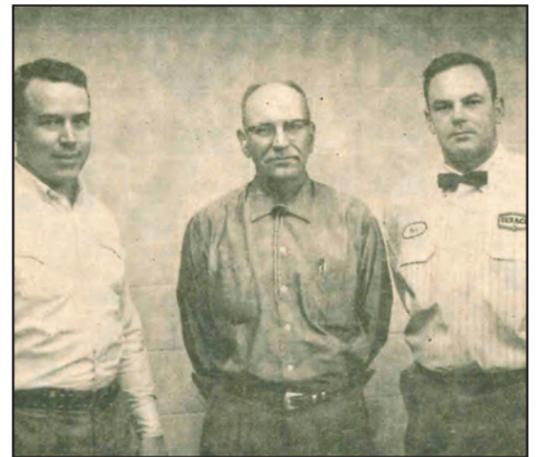
#### CLOVERETTES DEBUT THEIR LATEST PLAY

Members from Security's 4-H Club, the Cloverettes, are shown depicting a scene from their 20-minute play, "Be It Ever So Mortgaged, There's No Place Like Home." The play won first place at a county-wide play contest in April 1961 at the Little Theater in Colorado Springs. The Cloverettes competed against six other 4-H clubs, ranging in age from 10 to 21 years old. (Fountain Valley News file photo)

### Fifty Years Ago (1971)

#### CURRY'S B STREET AUTOMOTIVE OPENS

From left, Bill Conley, Don Weber and Ken Weber were the new staff at Curry's B Street Automotive when management changed in 1971. Don Weber, who had worked in the automobile business since 1932, was the new owner of the business, Ken Weber was his son and Bill Conley was his son-in-law. (Fountain Valley News file photo)



For 'PEACE OF MIND' Trash Removal...

**W.S.I.**  
Waste Systems, Inc.

4040 Clearview Frontage Rd. Security  
Serving  
Security-Widefield  
Fountain-Stratmoor Valley

Call now!  
Lowest prices in town

**390-5097**

Locally Owned and Operated!

### Forty Years Ago (1981)

#### PARADE FOR VETERANS

From left, color guards Jeannette Francois, Linda Yutzy and Paulette Francois, ex-prisoner of war (POW) Tom Farrell leading a riderless black horse, and right guard Sylvia Losoya, paraded down Metcalfe Park in an event organized by the Rocky Mountain Chapter of Ex-POWs. The parade honored missing- and killed-in-action soldiers, including American servicemen killed while trying to rescue hostages during the Iranian Hostage Crisis. The riderless black horse signified the fallen warrior and is traditionally used in military processions and for heads of state. (Photo by Getchell)



## Protect What Matters Most



COVERAGE	COST
\$5,000	\$240.00
\$10,000	\$345.00
\$15,000	\$450.00
\$20,000	\$555.00

Protect your loved ones with \$20,000 of life insurance coverage until age 26 for only \$555. What a perfect way to protect what matters most.

MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS AVAILABLE

**Michele Thompson-Koch, Agent**  
3520 Galley Rd. Suite 100,  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909  
719-574-0507 OFC  
MThompson@ShelterInsurance.com



We're your Shield. We're your Shelter.  
ShelterInsurance.com

AUTO • HOME • LIFE

Shelter Life Insurance Company • Columbia, Missouri

### Thirty Years Ago (1991)

#### READY TO DO THEIR PART

Third-grade students from Lorraine Elementary posed for a picture with teachers Mrs. Peggy King (center) and Mark Stahler (right) before they began picking up litter in the Old Fountain Park (now known as Aga Park) on Earth Day. (Fountain Valley News file photo)



### Twenty Years Ago (2001)

#### CLARICE PHILIPPI NAMED COLORADO 2001 OUTSTANDING CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEE

Clarice Philippi, then the head secretary at Mountainside Elementary School, won the 2001 Outstanding Classified School Employee Award. Submissions came in from all over the state of Colorado, and Philippi received letters of support from a wide variety of people working at the school as well as parents, students and community members. At the time that Philippi received this award, she had been working for Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8 for 24 1/2 years. (Fountain Valley News file photo)

