NEXT MEETING:

Saturday February 16, 2013
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Smoky Hill Library Meeting Room B
5430 S. Biscay Circle, Centennial 80015

Annual Meeting and Program:
NOTE THAT THIS IS ON A SATURDAY AND WILL START A LITTLE EARLIER THAN USUAL (10:00 AM).

Michael W. Nearing’s
“From Smoke to Text: What’s Next?”
A History of Telecommunications

At this meeting Michael W. Nearing will present a program on the history of communications technology. He is vice-president of the Telecommunications History Group (THG), which collects, preserves, and interprets the history of the industry. It maintains one of the largest privately held archives on the telephone industry and operates two museums (Denver and Seattle). The THG maintains a collection of about 80,000 photographs dating back to 1876; telephone directories for 14 states going back to 1890; and records of over 500 western-state telephone companies that date to 1878.

A graduate of the Denver Institute of Technology, Mr. Nearing has worked in the telephone industry for 40 years and currently is a network engineer for CenturyLink. He works in downtown Denver’s historic Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Building, where the THG’s museum is located.

Michael also plans to discuss the telecommunications history of the Cherry Creek Valley, since he would like to see our two organizations work together. CCVHS plans to follow up this presentation with a visit to the THG museum in the near future. (The virtual tour of the THG’s museum can be accessed at www.telcomhistory.org).
CCVHS Officer Elections

At this Annual Meeting we will also hold the election of our president, vice-president, and assistant secretary-treasurer (two-year terms each). Garry O’Hara is willing to run again for president. William Sear is volunteering to move from assistant secretary-treasurer to run for vice-president. The position of assistant secretary-treasurer will be open as of the February 16 election. Please contact Garry O’Hara (303-751-3140) if you wish to run for this position or if you want to nominate someone for this office (after getting that person’s permission). The membership will be informed by e-mail of any nominees for this position.

THE MELVIN SCHOOL REUNION

Our reunion celebration on November 10th for the 90th anniversary of the Melvin School was a rousing success. About 50 people attended the event, which consisted of a program and luncheon at the Smoky Hill Library followed by an open house at the Melvin Schoolhouse itself. Four former Melvin students and their families came to the reunion (the oldest ex-student being 90 years old). Several family members of other ex-students also attended along with many members of CCVHS.

Former CCVHS Vice-President Don Goe spoke to the library crowd about when he, as assistant superintendent of the Cherry Creek School District, offered the building’s current location as a place to which it could be moved (between Smoky Hill High School and Laredo Middle School in Aurora).

One of the highlights of this celebration was the unveiling of two large professionally framed photos sent to us by member Ann Miller from her home in California. One shows Melvin School as it looks today (the same picture as on our invitations); the other shows Ann as a 1949 Melvin student with a bronze nameplate that reads “Bertha Ann Szymanski Miller, the last one to graduate from Melvin.” (Many thanks, Ann.)

Life member Fred Crowle spoke to the group at the schoolhouse about when his wife Clarice, as the first president of CCVHS, began a five-year effort to restore the building. Fred expressed the opinion that our historical society was the Melvin School’s greatest legacy. We’re grateful for your remarks, Don and Fred.

The schoolhouse interior was given a thorough (and much needed) “facelift” to make it look more inviting, display more of its artifacts, and give it a good cleaning. For this huge job we sincerely thank Nita McKnight and Karen Sear, and we thank Garry O’Hara, Herb McKnight, and Joan O’Hara for their help in this endeavor. We are also indebted to Rey Gomez and Ryan Baxter of the maintenance staff of Smoky Hill High School for having the building’s exterior repainted and for fixing several items prior to the reunion; to Jay Bain of the school’s security staff for allotting us a parking area while two of the schools’ largest fundraising activities were also going on; and to school secretary Cathy Tucker for all her help for the reunion and throughout the year.
THE MELVIN SCHOOL REUNION

We also express our appreciation to those who made and brought food to the library and helped set up and serve at the luncheon: William Sear, Garry O’Hara, Nita McKnight, Lee and Jane Whiteley, Charlotte Faris, Fred Crowle, Elaine Plym, Shirley Miller, Susan Knapp, Ruth Dolan, and Ruth Fountain. Special thanks goes to Nita for arranging to have two cakes at the reunion, both of which commemorated the 90th anniversary of the school.

We’re also grateful to Kevin, Karen, and William Sear for designing the beautiful reunion invitations and getting them printed and mailed; for taking photos at the gathering and for taking commemorative pictures of our ex-student “guests of honor”; and for designing and printing the programs for the event. We also thank Lee and Jane Whiteley for displaying many items from their collection of children’s old lunchboxes (including the best-selling lunchbox design of all time: the “yellow school-bus” theme).

(left to right) Wayne Pouppiert, Cecil Newell, Roger Stout, Donna Crouse and Walter Obrecht.

Former Students and family:
Letter from Donna Crouse and her Daughter Janice Ponzio. Donna’s mother Mildred was one of eight Oliver sisters who attended Melvin.
MEMBER NEWS

We have three new members. Vonnie C’deBaca is interested in the history of 17 Mile House and volunteered as a greeter (in old-time costume) at the October grand opening of the 17 Mile House Farm Park. David & Kazuko Rowland have rejoined the Society at the family level with an additional donation. Christine & Charles Kastens have joined at the family level. We look forward to seeing Paige and siblings in their costumes at Melvin.

Welcome to the Society!

We are pleased to report that Joanie Mead has beaten cancer and is on the road to recovery; she is gaining strength each month. John Dale is doing well after a knee replacement and is planning on having the other knee replaced late this summer; he was our principal speaker at last year’s annual meeting in February 2012.

In appreciation for the beautifully framed photos she sent us for the 90th Melvin reunion in November, we sent Ann Miller a photo album of the reunion celebration and a photo book showing the preservation and restoration of the schoolhouse. We also awarded her a lifetime membership in the Society. Ann thanks CCVHS and wants everyone to know how much she appreciates the photos and her lifetime membership.

We congratulate Dorman Lehman for being presented with the Howard C. Raynesford Lifetime Achievement Award by the Smoky Hill Trail Association (SmHTA) at its October 2012 convention in Abilene, Kansas. Dorman has spent years researching the histories of Kansas and Colorado, and he is the acknowledged expert on Leavenworth and Pikes Peak Express (Denver’s first stagecoach run in 1859). We also congratulate former CCVHS President Roger Hanson for his election to the SmHTA Board of Directors at the October convention.

Member Lee Whiteley spoke on the Smoky Hill Trail at the November conference of the Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners, of which CCVHS is a member. He also wrote an interesting article on the Colorado River in the November-December issue of The Denver Westerners Roundup. And since CCVHS is an institutional member of the SmHTA, we enjoy his articles as a regular contributor to its newsletter the Overland Despatch.

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY

A huge thank-you goes to member Fred Crowle for his donation of Clarice Crowle’s personal collection of CCVHS business files, paperwork on local history projects, maps, small booklets and publications, and books. We will need help this summer to catalog everything and redo our files at Melvin. We may also need to add new shelves or a new bookcase to accommodate all of Clarice’s books in “her library” at Melvin.

We sincerely thank Franklin Harn for donating his self-published booklet Parker, Colorado and Surrounding Area in the 1930s. In this 16-page booklet and accompanying map, Mr. Harn (“Parker resident 1933-41”) gives his boyhood recollections of 94 sites in the region (his “memories of an old man”).

CCVHS also thanks member John Baker for his donation of a North Cherry Creek Valley Development Plan from 1965. The 4.5-square-mile area covered by this plan is bounded by Quebec St., Mississippi Ave., Havana St., and Yale Ave. It’s interesting to read what was going through the minds of the planning commissioners almost 50 years ago. For instance, they estimated in 1965 that “a total population of 22,800 people is possible” for the area, a figure that (we guess) was exceeded years ago.

And our gratitude also goes to Donna Crouse, who attended our Melvin reunion with her daughter Janice Ponzio and presented CCVHS with a generous donation. Donna’s mother Mildred was one of eight Oliver sisters who attended Melvin. Donna graciously is allowing us to reprint her and Janice’s letter to us, see page 4.
TREASURER’S REPORT

Comparative Statement of Net Assets
December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 31, 2012</th>
<th>December 31, 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$4,452.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>32.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expense</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$4,484.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarice Crowle Fund</td>
<td>216.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>4,208.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$4,424.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clarice Crowle Fund Detail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>December 31, 2012</th>
<th>December 31, 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Balance</td>
<td>$374.72</td>
<td>$374.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Plaque</td>
<td>158.63</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special edition of the Quill</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Amount Expended</td>
<td>158.63</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Balance</td>
<td>$216.09</td>
<td>$374.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory - Held for resale</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Chicken $10 each</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Douglas County – Calendars</td>
<td>32.50</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee Trail Book $10 each</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Balance</td>
<td>$32.50</td>
<td>$130.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparative Statement of Activities

Years ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year Ended</th>
<th>Year Ended</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 31, 2012</td>
<td>December 31, 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>$1,010.00</td>
<td>$1,177.00</td>
<td>-14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book &amp; Calendar sales</td>
<td>230.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>$1,240.00</td>
<td>$1,177.00</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quill - Printing</td>
<td>172.58</td>
<td>424.26</td>
<td>-59.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>242.70</td>
<td>233.82</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker Fees</td>
<td>125.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe deposit box fee</td>
<td>45.00</td>
<td>45.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>218.36</td>
<td>68.93</td>
<td>224.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>190.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Filing fees</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarice Fund</td>
<td>158.63</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting expense-Regular</td>
<td>174.47</td>
<td>25.15</td>
<td>593.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting expense-Melvin 80th</td>
<td>403.16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td>$1,779.90</td>
<td>$997.16</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in net assets</td>
<td>($539.90)</td>
<td>$179.84</td>
<td>80.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets - beginning of year</td>
<td>$4,964.42</td>
<td>$4,784.58</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets - end of year</td>
<td>$4,424.52</td>
<td>$4,964.42</td>
<td>-11.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposed CCVHS Calendar 2013
(To be discussed at the February 16 Annual Meeting)

February
16th – **Quill/Annual Meeting** with elections (Program: History of Telecommunications by Michael W. Nearing

March
Field Trip: Telecommunications History Group museum, Denver

April
6th – Eastern Counties Historical Societies & Museums meeting, Burlington

May
**Quill/Quarterly Meeting** at 17 Mile House (Program: Tour and History of 17 Mile House by Susie Trumble and Kevin Sear); joint meeting with Colorado Cherokee Trail Chapter of OCTA
Field Trip: Sentinel Rock/Inscription Cave, Perry Park
Field Trip: Melvin - Lewis Cemetery cleanup, Aurora

Summer
Field Trip: Hillenbrand Homestead, Chatfield Botanic Gardens
Field Trip: Four Mile Historic Park, Denver
Field Trip: Riverside or Fairmount Cemetery, Denver

June
Booth?/visit Prairie Canyon Ranch Open House, Franktown

July
Host lunch? for teachers’ workshop of Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners, Denver
Booth? at Arapahoe County Fair, Aurora

August
**Quill/Quarterly Meeting** (Program: Colorado railroads?)

September
Participate in Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners Fall Equinox Walk

October
**Quill/Quarterly Meeting** (Program: TBD)
5th – Host meeting and lunch? For Eastern Counties Historical Societies and Museums at Melvin
Smoky Hill Trail Association annual conference: host lunch at Melvin? for mile house bus tour
Field Trip: Smoky Hill Trail Exhibit at Elbert County Museum, Kiowa
Booth/participate in 17 Mile House Farm Park fall festival giving tours/history; many volunteer opportunities

November
Booth/participate in Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners annual conference
CCVHS Committees

Last year the Board started a policy of publishing a list of proposed Society activities in the first Quill of the year and discussing this list with the members at the annual meeting. This helps CCVHS to accomplish its goals and schedule activities that its members want to see and do. However, we seem to have been doing things rather haphazardly. That is, we usually get something done by making use of a few interested members or by having the Board members do it themselves. To fix this situation, and to get more members involved, we believe that CCVHS should reinstitute the use of committees. As a start, we have proposed the formation of the following committees:

Melvin School Committee
1. Tours.
2. Classroom use by teachers.
3. Open houses.

Archives Committee
1. Assist 17 Mile House Farm Park with accessioning and furnishing the house with donations from members and items in barn.
2. Schedule archives and accessioning training.
3. Work with Douglas County History Research Center on sharing/repairing photos.
4. Accession donations from Franklin Harn, John Baker, and Fred Crowle into Melvin Archives.

Refreshments Committee
1. Quarterly meetings.
2. Special occasions/picnics.

Publications Committee
2. Republication of Melvin School and Cherry Creek School history.
3. Update CCVHS fliers.

17 Mile House Volunteers Committee
1. Fall festival
2. Other special events

If any of these committees interest you, or if you have ideas for additional ones, let us know by volunteering at the February meeting or by contacting a Board member. These committees will help accomplish the things we hope to get done this year, which include:

Other Proposed CCVHS Activities and Priorities for 2013
(To be discussed at the February 16 Annual Meeting)
1. Determine more on burials at Melvin-Lewis Cemetery (and plaque?).
2. Hold more CCVHS activities at 17 Mile House.
3. Investigate the Englewood historic preservation group.
4. Work with Aurora Historical Society on joint meetings.
5. Work with Aurora History Museum on sharing exhibits.
6. Add bookcases at Melvin for newly donated books from the Clarice Crowle collection.
7. Fix Melvin window.
8. Schedule programs and trips (e.g., Cherry Creek School, Colorado Railroad Museum, Delaney Farm).
10. Design and update CCVHS website.
OTHER NEWS
We are still selling Historic Douglas County’s 2013 calendar Women of Douglas County. This month (February) our own Clarice Crowle is the woman being honored. The calendars cost $5.00 each and will be available at the upcoming meeting and our other functions until they are sold out. If you cannot attend our functions and want one mailed to you, please contact Karen Sear at seark@msn.com or (303) 514-2094.

A one-page directory of CCVHS members will be included with the next Quill. It will include members’ names, postal addresses, and phone numbers. It will not include e-mail addresses. Anyone who does not want their information to be on this directory should contact Garry O’Hara at gohara46@aol.com or (303) 751-3140.

We’re glad to report that the 1859 Baugh House, which was accurately restored by the Wheat Ridge Historical Society, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Like the 17 Mile House, the Baugh House is a log cabin that was covered with clapboard. It was visited by CCVHS on a field trip a few years ago.

When we went through the new History Colorado Center last summer with former CCVHS Vice-president Peter Faris, some of us wondered what happened to one of the most popular exhibits at the previous museum: the 1860 Early Denver diorama. (This outstanding 1/16-inch scale reproduction of early Denver was made in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration.) We were pleased to hear that the refurbished diorama will be displayed in the History Colorado Center’s lobby starting February 7. Its sponsor is Wells Fargo. Although the fragile diorama had been renovated in the 1980s, its plaster and paper representations were getting brittle and cracking. These defects were attributed to the heat generated by the overhead light that illuminated the diorama’s display case. Therefore, for the new exhibit the nearby windows will be shaded and the display case will be made from a material that reduces ambient light and heat. The miniature “town” has also been dusted by hand and cleaned with a mini-vacuum hose. There will be a few labels added but essentially it will be the same exhibit that visitors have enjoyed for 75 years. But you will only have the next two or three years to view the refurbished Early Denver diorama. After that it will be put in storage and replaced by one of the many other dioramas that have been made over the years for the museum.

THE THREE “LIVES” OF MELVIN SCHOOL:
School, Tavern, and Museum/Library
The Melvin Schoolhouse has had three “lives” at its three locations. This was echoed in the letter from Donna Crouse and Janice Ponzio (shown here earlier) when they referred to the “… amazing journey and transformation for a little country school….”

The building was built in 1922 near the corner of Bellevue Avenue and Sullivan (now Jordan) Road; the site is now part of Cherry Creek State Park. The area was called the Melvin community after John and Jane Melvin, who were the first to build on the land in the 1860s. The building served the community as a school until it closed in 1949. In the early 1950s it was moved about 1.5 miles northeast to the corner of Quincy Avenue and Parker Road, where it became the original Emerald Isle tavern. It was a “drinking establishment” until 1970, when a new tavern/restaurant (the current Emerald Isle) was built next door. After that, the vacant building was used sporadically as a meeting place for the Cherry Creek Jaycees and a Cub Scout pack. Its owner then reported that he wanted to demolish the dilapidated structure and build a gas station in its place. In 1975 Clarice Crowle, Don Goe, and three others founded the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society with the aim of preserving and restoring the Melvin Schoolhouse. The structure’s owner basically told CCVHS, “You can have it if you move it.”

In 1976 Don Goe, who was the assistant superintendent of the Cherry Creek School District, offered the building’s current location as a place to which it could be moved. Clarice Crowle, as the first president of CCVHS, announced that the historical society would restore and maintain the building after it was moved. In December 1976 it was moved from its Emerald Isle site about two miles southeast to its current location between Smoky Hill High School and Laredo Middle School in Aurora. In 1977 a five-year restoration effort began on the old schoolhouse. This tedious work involved the efforts of numerous CCVHS members, community volunteers, members of civic organizations, and students and teachers from Smoky Hill and Laredo schools. Most materials and labor were generously donated. Major restoration of the Melvin Schoolhouse was completed in 1982. It was dedicated on the evening of September 23, 1982, for the community to enjoy as a museum/library and old-time classroom. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 and became Aurora Landmark No. 1 in 1988.
A BRIEF CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE MELVIN SCHOOL

1922 - The Melvin School was built in the NW1/4 of Section 13, T5S, R67W, Arapahoe County, Colorado on land donated by Hans Dransfieldt. The DeBoer brothers built the school for $4,450. The original site was at the junction of Bellevue Avenue and the old Sullivan Road (now Jordan Road) in Cherry Creek State Park. The school opened in September of 1922.

1949 - Families in the community of Melvin received condemnation papers telling them to move from the area in preparation for the building of the dam. The school was included in this area, and it closed its doors in June of 1949. The building was sold to J. Edwin Stout for $1,500. He sold it to William Minshall who had it moved to the southwest corner of the intersection of Parker Road and Quincy Avenue (Section 12, T5S, R67W).

1953 - After extensive remodeling, the former schoolhouse opened as the Emerald Isle Tavern on Saint Patrick's Day. Glenn Barrier managed it as Glenn's Emerald Isle Tavern until 1970.

1975 - Five area residents who were interested in local history and in saving the old Melvin School incorporated and became the first Board of Directors of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society, Inc. They persuaded Mr. Silverberg to donate the building to the Society in trade for their moving it elsewhere and leveling the site after the moving of the building. The Society's purpose was to restore the old Melvin School and to use it as a classroom-museum-library for the study and collection of local historical information.

1976 - Cherry Creek School District offered a site on the campus of Smoky Hill High School. It was moved on December 14, 1976.

1977-1981 - With the help of the community, the school district, and the historical society, the Melvin School was restored. The exterior was authentically restored as was one classroom. The second classroom, the one which originally had a stage, was adaptively restored into a museum and a library. A plaque which honors those who helped in the restoration has been engraved with the slogan: “Restored by the Community - For the Community.”

1984 - The Melvin School was put on the National Register of Historic Places.

1988 - The City of Aurora honored the Melvin School as Aurora Historic Landmark #1.

The Quill is the quarterly newsletter of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society (CCVHS). The purposes of the Society are to study, record, preserve, and display the history of the Cherry Creek Valley and surrounding areas. Membership is open to anyone interested in this history. Quarterly general meetings are usually held at the Melvin Schoolhouse, 4950 S. Laredo St. (between Smoky Hill High School and Laredo Middle School) in Aurora, Colo. Correspondence concerning The Quill should be directed to Garry O’Hara, editor, at (303) 751-3140.

YOU CAN HELP MAKE HISTORY
Collect the past   Preserve the present   Plan for the future