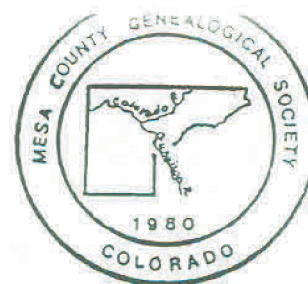


# MESA DWELLERS



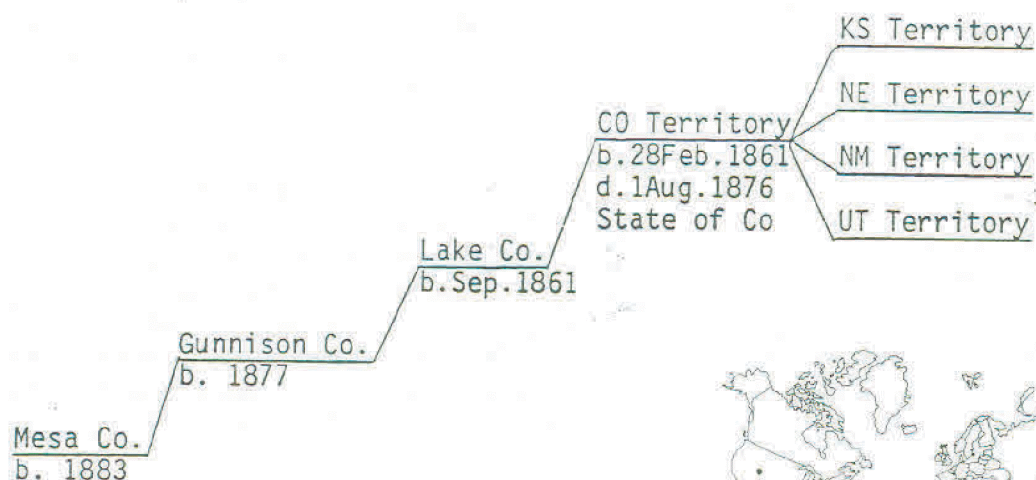
A PUBLICATION OF THE MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1506

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO 81502-1506

MARCH, APRIL, MAY, 1997

VOLUME 17, NO. 1



\* \* WE WANT YOU! IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME \* \*

MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1506

GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81502

e-mail: [REDACTED]@m

CELEBRATING OUR 17th YEAR

## 1996/1997 OFFICERS

President	Joan Chaffin	
Vice President	Jody Nestler	
Secretary	Gloria Heitsman	
Treasurer	Betty Grosskopf	
Corr. Sec'y	Wynona Hennessey	

Annual Dues: \$10 Singles; \$12 Family. Membership period is March 1st to April 30th. Those with **UNPAID DUES** (after April 30th.) will not receive the Newsletter. **Send a SASE to receive a current membership card if you do not attend regular meetings.**

\* \* \*

The Mesa County Genealogical Society was established in 1980 as a non-profit organization to promote an interest in genealogy. A Newsletter is published in March, June, September, and December. Regular meetings are held at the Museum of Western Colorado, 4th & Ute, Grand Junction, CO at 7:00 p.m., on the second Thursday of each month. Visitors are welcome.

Contributions of neatly typed or written stories, requests for/or giving information, queries, or other information of importance to the membership are welcomed. Please direct your information to Editor Juanita Moston, [REDACTED], Grand Junction, CO 81504-4219, or [REDACTED]. The Society disclaims responsibility for statement of fact or opinion made by contributors and will not accept material with obvious errors.

\* \* \*

## REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEERS

March	None
April	Peggy Haubold
May	Ron Knapp
June	Donna Roberts
July	Dorothy O'Dwyer and Dorothy Roper
August	Summer Picnic
September	Norm and Mary Kronvall
October	Wynona Hennessey
November	Laveta Kay
December	Christmas Party

## ELECTED OFFICERS

One Year Term	Donna Roberts
Two Year Term	Laveta Kay
Three Year Term	Norm Kronvall

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AGLL Librarian	Betty Grosskopf	
Historian	Jeanne Edwards	
MCGS Librarian	Gloria Heitsman	
Membership	Betty Dougherty	
Programs	Dennis Jenkins	
Newsletter	Juanita Moston	

## \*\*\* CALENDAR \*\*\*

### MARCH

- 13 General Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Mesa County Public Library, Kiva Room. *Update of the Reference Materials Available.* Betty Jane Grosskopf and Kay Oser.

### APRIL

- 10 General Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Museum of Western Colorado. *Becoming and Being a Professional*, with Betty Summers.
- 25-26 Western Colorado Heritage Days, Cross Orchards Historic Farm, 8:30am - 8:00 p.m. each day. Society will have a table. Volunteers are needed! Contact Joan Chaffin for more information.

### MAY

- 1 Board Meeting, Joan Chaffin's house, [REDACTED]
- 8 General Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Museum of Western Colorado. *Report on Maps Workshop*, with Donna Roberts and Carolyn Howard.

### JUNE

- 12 General Meeting, 7:00 p.m. TBA

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS HERE - DON'T FORGET -- SEND YOUR CHECK BEFORE THE DEADLINE.**



## IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND

## MATILDA M. "MATTIE" SEVERSON

Mattie was born April 12, 1923 in Roundup, Montana to Charles F. Maris and Althea Zinn. She spent her childhood in Roundup, but also lived in Indiana, North Dakota and ended up in Grand Junction in 1989.

Mattie received a B.S. in Chemistry at Montana State University. Mattie married Roland Severson on January 12, 1945.

Mattie was a member of DAR and several other organizations, but she spent much of her time involved in the Obituary Extraction Project for the Genealogical Society. Along with others who worked on the project, Mattie spent several mornings each week at the Mesa County Public Library reading old newspapers on Microfilm looking for information on people. She felt strongly about the importance of the project and did a good job to see that the information was compiled and made available for others.

We extend our sympathy to her husband and children.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE APRIL 1ST

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By the time you read this we will have had an election of officers. I ask that you support all the new and returning officers. We do try to do our best for you; sometimes without feedback, it is difficult to know what the membership really wants. Thank you for the support you have given me in my term as your President.

By the time you read this we will have participated in yet another LDS Family History Faire.

Did I say Thank You in advance? Or do I say a belated Thank You? SIGH!! Thanks to all those members that will (have) help(ed) at our booth.

While working on the Cemetery Book research I ran across a headstone in the Veteran's Cemetery for a woman described as "Y1 USNR WW1". I was confused. In the first place, I thought women were in the WAVES, or WAFS or WACS; so a trip to the Mesa County Public Library was in order. With the help of the Reference Librarian we searched and searched for some World War I information. The Librarian told me WWI has become known as the "forgotten war". I told her someone needs to write a book about the forgotten gender in the forgotten war. Finally, in the World Book Encyclopedia I found

"Women in the Navy do not form a separate organization or unit, except for those in the Navy Nurse Corps. Women other than nurses serve as enlisted or commissioned personnel in the Regular Navy or the Naval Reserve. Women first served in the Navy during WW1. They performed Yeoman Clerical and Secretarial duties to relieve enlisted men for active duty at sea."

Recently, after much urging from Wanda Dodson I wrote a letter to Germany requesting information. Much to my surprise and delight the answer came fairly quick. Now, anyone out there read German?

Here's to yet another year of looking for that elusive ancestor. You know the one I mean. The one I can't find!

\*\*\*

## THE COMPUTER PAGES

By Rick Sheldon, Computer Editor

In an effort add some valid Internet information, Editor Juanita Moston asked me if I would be willing to contribute some Internet news for those members who are either starting to use, or currently using, the Internet as a tool for research.

As each of us can attest, any tool that can be used to find a relative or extend our roots is a welcomed one.

**Please don't ignore this information because you are not using the Internet as a source for your root searching.** If you see something that you think could help in your search **please** contact me or my wife Dianna; we will be happy to check that source out for you.

Since this is a new beginning I'll start with some basics of using the Internet as a tool. The most used sources on the Internet are *news groups*, *mailing lists*, and *home pages*, both commercial ones and those of individuals. A news group is a forum where individuals interact. This is the best starting point there is, here you can find both inquiries and responses regarding families, (someone is searching for or has information about) other sites that can be used for a tool (ships logs, passenger lists, county or state records that have been put up on the Internet for public access) and addresses of home pages for both companies and individuals that you can visit.

Two of the best places to start are the *soc.genealogy.misc* and the *alt.genealogy* news groups; in both of these you'll find messages on meetings, seminars, announcements, information requests and just as important, postings about new genealogy Web pages and on-line resources. The newsgroup *soc.genealogy.marketplace* is the place to read about what's new in maps, books, and research aids. And two



other good ones are *soc.genealogy.methods* and *soc.genealogy.surnames*. Surnames is a good source for finding or inquiring about family surnames and who else might have information or is part of your extended family.

Once you get used to traveling around checking out the other *soc.genealogy* newsgroups it is a good idea especially in checking out the ethnic groups such as *soc.genealogy.german* or *soc.genealogy.nordic*.

After you start visiting Web home pages you will find they will have links to other pages and then it is just a matter of allocating time to visit those which are out there.

A couple of my favorites are:

<http://www.oz.net/~cyndihow/sites.htm> Cyndi's list of genealogy sites on the Internet recognized as one of the best.

<http://www.seidata.com/~lhoffman/index.html> Lori Hoffman's home pages

<http://www.rand.org/personal/Genea/> Rand Genealogy Club Home Page

<http://www.smartlink.net/~leverich/roots-l.html> (small L).html Roots-L home pages

<http://www.rootsweb.com/root-l> another spot for Roots-L home page

<http://genealogy.tbox.com/genealogy.html> the genealogy Toolbox is a good site for links, software, and text files, several links to personal genealogy pages, some of which are specific to just one surname.

Some new pages that were passed along to me and I checked out are:

<http://www.netwalk.com/~coliver/ohio> some really good links to Ohio counties and genealogical sources

<http://www.geocities.com/heartland/6854/ross.html> information for Ross County, Ohio

<http://www.health.state.ny.us> order forms and ordering information for genealogical help, just make sure you read the genealogy guide under vital records

<http://www.logicnet.com/melanie.mccluskey/medterm.htm> excellent source for medical terminology of the late 18th century

<http://www.onthenet.com.au/~tonylang/occupa.html> another excellent source for 18th century occupations.

Mailing lists are another good source for information; this can range from specific name such as Thornton or broader such as TN-roots which covers the state of Tennessee. Most of these can be found through Web pages or will be mentioned in the newsgroups.

With this information you should be able to start utilizing the Internet as a source for your genealogy forays.

If any one has any sites or new pages they would like more information on, or would like to see mentioned here contact me at one of the meetings or call [REDACTED]

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There are new things in the works. Thanks to the efforts of Russ Herr, the Genealogical Society has its own web page on the internet. But, the important news is that it was obtained at NO cost to the Society. This will give many of us who do not have access, nor want access, to the Internet a chance to still reap some of the benefits of the Internet. There will be a place for members to submit family names that they are searching for, and place for family names that they have information on (basically a small Gedcom).

This web page will be linked with many of the search engines of the Internet. Plus, we will be linked to the Colorado Genealogy group, so anyone that accesses that page can connect with our page. If you are interested in adding your family names to the web page or listing some lost ancestors in our "searching for page" contact either Russ or myself ([REDACTED]). And, for those who have their own Home Page and would like it linked to both the Mesa County Genealogical Society page and Russ's Mesa County Gen WEB page, be sure and contact us. Oh, yes, the Internet address for the Genealogical page is:

<http://www.geocities.com/HEARTLAND/PLAINS/8030>. Be sure both Heartland and Plains are in caps. Those of you who are on the Internet please take a look at the page and let us know what could be added or done better.

I found some new sites that bear checking out.

Dayna's Southern Genealogy Page

([www.home.texoma.net/~mmcmullen/welcome/html](http://www.home.texoma.net/~mmcmullen/welcome/html))

Excellent southern resources for the following states, AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MI, N/SCarolina, TN, and VA. Also, under the general resources links there is information on Vital Records for most if not all states, along with the US Geographic Name Server where one can find all sorts of named locales. There are some really beneficial links here for those searching the southern regions. The Lacy Family Home Page ([www2.cy-net/~lacy](http://www2.cy-net/~lacy)) is laid out very nice with some excellent links throughout the Internet. Make sure you look at the links this site has to offer. The other sites listed below are also some that you should browse through.

I just received a REAL letter from the secretary of a family organization that I found while searching; the internet gave me a home page for a part of my family I



couldn't find any thing on. Now I have books, resources, a newsletter, and I am able to fill in gaps I thought I would have to wait until I retired to look for.

New Genealogy Web Sites:

<http://www.rootscomputing.com/register.htm> The American Civil War Homepage:

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/1657/genealogy.html>

LACY GENEALOGIST HOMEPAGE by Steve Lacy

<http://www.polaris.net/~legend/bookmark.thm> Georgia Genealogical Information:

<http://www.mindspring.com/~bevr/index.html>

National Genealogical Society Home Page:

<http://www.genealogy.org/~ngs>

Genealogy Links:

<http://WWW.geocities.com/Heartland/1657/genlinks.html>

So, have some fun, try starting at the new Mesa County Genealogical Page and follow some of the links we have established. I am interested in your results; if you have questions drop me a line or call; I will be glad to help.

(Editors Note: *I was so happy to get some help with the newsletter I opted to use everything Rick sent me. Now if this is overkill, or if you are not interested in all this computer talk, let me know. With no feed back about what you find helpful or interesting I'm afraid you will have to read whatever I find interesting!*)

## NEW BOOKS \*\* NEW BOOKS \*\* NEW BOOKS

The Colorado Genealogical Society reports they have available a 156 page book in a 3-ring binder format for sale, entitled *Colorado Voters in the 1861 Territorial Election for a delegate to the 37th Congress*.

To order, send your check for \$12 to CGS/CIG, Vern Tomkins, 2742 W. 2nd. Ave., Denver, CO 80219. Include your mailing address. This can also be obtained on Interlibrary Loan, the DPL # is G929.3788 C7189.

### COLORADO REFERENCE BOOKS

- Pierce, Duane A. (Duane Allen) *The Golden Census Guide for the State of Colorado*.
- Sherard, Gerald E. *Colorado State Reformatory Prisoner Records: 1877-1939*
- Sherard, Gerald E. *Pre-1963 Colorado Mining Fatalities*.
- Sherard, Gerald E. (Gerald Emerson). *The Colorado State Penitentiary Prisoner Records: 1871-1973*.
- Colorado Health Statistics Section, Comp. *Groom Index (microfilm)*. *Colorado Marriage Index: Groom Index (microfiche)*. DPL has 1975-1995).
- Allen, Pat, John C. Clement, Marilyn Close, et. Al., comp. *Bride Index: Colorado Magazines, 1859-*

1939. V. 3 pt. 1 & pt. 2.

- Wilmer, Anna Lois Tubbs, comp. *Early Marriages in La Plata County, Colorado*

### CEMETERIES

- Oestman, Patricia Ann.
  - \**Phillips County, CO Cemeteries*.
  - \**Washington County, CO Cemeteries*.
  - \**Yuma County, CO Cemeteries Excluding Grandview Cemetery at Wray and Yuma Cemetery: East Yuma County Cemeteries, West Yuma County Cemeteries*.
  - \**Obituaries from the Wray, CO Rattler, the Wray Gazette and the Colorado Patriot, 16 July 1898 thru 1975 and the Yuma Pioneer 25 Dec. 1886 thru 1956*.

Check to see if these can be ordered on Interlibrary loan.

## WHAT A DEAL!

The Ohio Historical Society recently announced they have published an expanded and updated microfiche edition of its newspaper catalog. The new edition records Ohio newspapers held by the Society both on original newsprint and on 35mm service copy microfilm. The previous microfiche edition, published in 1989, recorded only microfilm holdings.

The catalogue is printed on five microfiche sheets. Newspapers are listed alphabetically by city of publication and by title within each city. Individual rolls and volumes of a given title are arranged chronologically.

The Ohio Historical Society's holdings include more than 41,000 microfilm rolls and 20,000 newsprint volumes. Represented in this collection are 2,704 newspapers published in 489 Ohio cities and villages. The 1991 microfiche edition is available for \$20 prepaid, sales tax for Ohio residents \$1.15, no mention of what others pay. Order from Stephen Gutgesell, Ohio Historical Society, 1982 Velma Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211, (614)297-2568. Wait 6 weeks for delivery.

## NATURALIZATION TIPS

*The Aurora Gen. Society of Colorado, Nov-Dec, 1996 newsletter offers the following information.*

"Naturalization papers are rich in lore, and time spent in locating them is time well-spent. If you know your ancestor was a naturalized citizen, they may be found among the Immigration Records - which are found in three parts; 1. Declaration of Intention, 2. Petition to become a citizen with proof of residency and 3. Orders for Admission to Citizenship.

These records should include such personal information as age, birth place, allegiance to what county,



date and place of emigration, date of arrival, residence, declaration of intention and naturalization.

During the colonial period there were few naturalizations, mostly from Pennsylvania. Only Europeans were considered non-citizens at the time, since the colonies were part of the British Kingdom.

The first naturalization act, in 1790, required two year's residency before becoming a citizen. In 1798 residency was increased to 14 years, and in 1802 five years were required. The law remained virtually unchanged until 1906, when a complete revision of naturalization laws was brought about by the Irish vote fraud in New York City.

In 1906, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization was formed. Prior to this, the courts handled all proceedings.

It is a must to know where your ancestor lived when he filed his papers, as they were filed where he lived. If they lived in a rural area and there are no large cities in the county, the naturalization papers are usually in the local county courts.

Some counties have separate Naturalization Record Books, but many counties have naturalization records in the County Court Minutes or Court Order Book. The naturalization records are buried there with other county business as an assignment of workers to maintain roads, repair on the court house and jail, setting tax districts, and such legal business as land transactions and appointment of administrators. These court order books are usually incompletely indexed, if at all, so a person must search personally to find his ancestor's naturalization papers.

If your ancestor lived in a county with a large city, the papers were probably filed in that city's court, and probably in the US District Court or Circuit Court. These courts have alphabetical listings of the persons they naturalized; many of these books have been sent to the Federal Records Center.

To learn which Federal Record Center the naturalization papers were sent to for your ancestor, write to the ancestral city's federal court, for the center, accession number, and agency box number. Then write to the appropriate Federal Record Center where they will supply copies of the pages for a cost of copies. If neither the Federal Records Center nor the US Court has a copy of your ancestor's naturalization papers, they might be filed in any other court of record (that is a court having a clerk who keeps formal written files) in the home city or county."

## MESA COUNTY WWII RECORDS AVAILABLE

By Judy Prosser-Armstrong

Throughout its 30 year history, the Museum of Western Colorado has collected historical artifacts and documents relating to veterans who served in America's various wars. These begin with materials concerning Civil War veterans who were early settlers and members of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Among the materials most utilized by genealogists and others interested in the Second World War, is a collection acquired by the Museum from the Mesa County Clerk's Office (1982.64). Once the raw data was submitted to the Mesa County Commissioners, the County staff generated individual forms as a means of compiling a permanent record of local veterans. A surname index was later generated by the Museum.

The 295 completed page size forms contain a variety of information truly invaluable to family historians. In addition to basic data including full name, address, and date of birth, and the date, rank, and branch of service, they list the name of parents, spouses, and children. Space is also provided for when and where the individual enlisted, serial number, promotions, discharge, wounds, and/or date and place of death. Other questions concern where the individual spent his/her childhood, how long they lived in Mesa County, occupation, and former employer. Of special note, are the many forms which also contain black and white photographs of the service member.

Included in the collection are forms documenting two of the better known local men who did not survive the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. These were Harold Wood, son of Grace Traynor, who was serving aboard the U.S.S. Arizona, and James Edward Massey of Whitewater, son of Philip and Rosa Massey, who had been stationed aboard the U.S.S. Curtis.

Over the years the Museum has also received many other collections relating to WW II veterans. Included in the library holdings is a copy of *The Men and Women in World War II*, compiled and published by Western Publishing Company in 1946. Many taped interviews are also available through the Mesa County Oral History Project.

For more information on the Mesa County Clerk's Collection or other WWII holdings, contact the Museum's Research Center and Special Library at 233 S. 5th Street in Grand Junction. Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 1 p.m.-4:00 p.m., and other times by appointment. The voice number



is 970-242-0971 ex. 209, and the Fax, 970-242-3960. The Center/Library may also be reached through e-mail at judypa@colosys.net.

### **DPL PUTTING HISTORIC PHOTO COLLECTION ON COMPUTER**

The Denver Public Library Western History Department is the official repository of written material and photos for a large portion of the Western United States. The collection of photographs currently numbers in the half million range.

The Western History section has embarked on a project that will scan all of this collection and make it available for researchers to view on computer archives.

At a rate of 16,00 photographs a year, the library will be scanning the 500,000 photographs in its collection for years. DPL hopes to place monitors in public libraries around the state so that users can access the collection. Later, the photo collections of other Colorado Public libraries will be added to the system. By this summer, scanned photos will be available at "preview" quality on the Internet.

With a grant from the Boettcher Foundation that funded the hardware the library is now working on fragile, irreplaceable, glass negatives that would have otherwise been sent out to be copied. Now a digital print is made by computers in-house and there is no fear of loss or destruction to the original.

For the first time, historical material that had to be protected and limited in their use are available to everyone.

The library will do no retouching on the original photos. They maintain they are historical documents, so they will make no changes. They will, however, attempt if there is a blemish on a photo, a stain, or some degeneration of a nitrate-based negative, try to clean the photo electronically, but their goal is to only make the clearest image possible.

What this means to researchers is almost impossible to imagine. The possibilities are endless. No longer will we have to rely on the help of another individual to find just the right picture.

### **LAUGH TRACKS**

There are times in the life of an Editor when you just can't find anything worthwhile to fill all the blank space. I could have searched for something very high minded in the way of research tips, but I came across the following in an agricultural magazine, and I decided that if their Editor could afford the space for some fun - so could I.

- If corn oil comes from corn, and olive oil comes from olives, where does baby oil come from?
- Why are there expiration dates on cartons of sour cream?
- Why is abbreviation such a long word?
- What's another word for thesaurus?
- How does a Scot know when it's time to tune a bagpipe?
- What do they use to ship styrofoam pellets in?
- Why is a television called a set when it's only one?
- There is absolutely no substitute for a genuine lack of preparation.
- Everything should be made and/or done as simply as possible, but no simpler.
- Friends come and go, but enemies accumulate.
- If you think there is good in everybody, you just haven't met everybody yet.
- All things being equal, big people use more soap.
- If you can smile when things go wrong, you obviously have someone in mind to blame.
- Contrary to what some people may claim, there is absolutely not one shred of evidence to support the notion that life is serious.

Hope you enjoyed these comments, I tend to agree with the last one.

### **NORTH CAROLINA ARCHIVES OFFERS FREE CATALOG**

A catalog of the North Carolina Archives is available to genealogists and other interested persons free of charge. The catalog spotlights new book titles, and takes particular note of titles of genealogical interest. Catalog requests should be sent to Historical Publication Section, Division of Archives and History, 1-09 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NE 27601-2807; or call 919-733-7442.

*Thanks to the Family Tree, Dec. 1966-Jan, 1997*

### **THINK YOUR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ARE TAKING TOO LONG - ONLY IN NEW YORK**

In New York City authorities have uncovered 12,545 request letters containing \$272,000-plus in checks, some of them dating back months, even a year or more.

They say due to staff positions that were cut by more than a third, and other current vacancies it has meant they just couldn't keep up with the requests.

Good News! The plan is to hire extra help to clear the backlog. But there is a problem with that, checks are not normally honored by banks six months after they are written.



Board Meeting May 1, 1997

Minutes previous board meeting & approved  
Treasurer report - accepted

President Linda, Sue and Dorothy Tanco  
to audit books

Boardman Robert Ron Haley appoint  
to write - June 1st died line.

Discussion on what are desire of C.D. to  
be with our computers. What C.D. would  
be determined for amount desired, and  
what to be selected by a appoint committee

Western Colorado Heritage Days questionnaire  
fill and by board approval

Shirley's idea in trouble - need to be up

Discussion how to give  
Bess Library volunteers

1 Betty Tanco a year to go to office Depot to copy  
Betty & Gloria to ask Gene Pickens if  
picking up shirt.

Dennis Gentry's dress gives Enloe some money  
to work on.

Betty has up to ask Dennis if we can have sat  
time

Discussion on investing on another C.D. at bank  
will before circulating on C.D. units in  
discussion with Ron, Libby & shirt line

Ron Haley needs a letter head

Gloria to see about T-shirt with logo (color) & design  
approved



