

Movies always a big hit at Chautauqua by Silvia Pettem

Some things never change, and an evening out to see a movie is one of them. Boulder residents have gone to see films at Chautauqua ever since its auditorium first opened in 1898.

That year, the films were only a few minutes long, and most were newsreels of the Spanish-American War. The fascinated public was completely unaware that the movie producers used model ships of cardboard disguised with plenty of cigar smoke.

Within a few years, audiences were treated to hand-tinted "trick films." First to be shown was Cinderella, a fairy tale produced by Georges Melies, known as the "Jules Verne of the cinema." His tale featured transformations, with lizards that were turned into footmen, and long-whiskered rats that became coachmen. According to the "Daily Camera," the concluding scenes "sent the audience home in a daze."

One of the next films was "A Trip to the Moon." It was accompanied by music and lasted ten minutes, longer than earlier films. Nothing like it had ever before been seen in Colorado.

Nationally known producer Henry Hale Buckwalter came to Chautauqua in 1905 to accompany his new release, "Bank Robbery." The "Camera" editorialized that the film would turn Boulder into a "school of crime." Next came travelogues that included a ride in a dirigible over the Swiss Alps. ...see film, next page



Neighbor Profile...

Virginia Ostrander, 89 and daughter Kay Stoakes, 64

Kay called me recently to share some of the memories of their lives here since the 1940s. They live together at 1722 Mariposa Ave. where I met them and heard their stories. I know you'll enjoy!

JH: What year did you come to Boulder? **VO:** In 1941, from Longmont where my dad was a wheat farmer. I was born and raised there. **JH:** How did you choose to live here in Boulder?

VO: When my husband went to serve in the war (WWII) I came. He was stationed in Ie Shima (an island near Okinawa, Japan)

where he maintained guns on P-38s (a World War II fighter plane). **JH:** In what year did you purchase your home here? **VO:** 1946, April. It was a two bedroom and had one bathroom. It was so, so small. We bought it fully furnished for \$10,500. It's two lots. This was our first home. We had looked and looked and then an ad in the Camera for this house came up and I drove by and said, "that's it, that's the one!"

JH: What did it look like around here, the landscape? **KS:** Well there were dirt roads everywhere. There were so few homes here and the trees, you could see clear up to the Flatirons with out any trees blocking the view. It was all open. This was wild country. There were a number of chicken farms and there was a tree nursery down on Bluebell. **JH:** What was life like here? **VO:** There were a lot of young families here. It was called the "Fertile Valley" in Floral Park for a while because we all had kids around the same time. There were lots of kids. We made our garages into bedrooms to accommodate our growing families. All the men would be working and the women would meet and have coffee while our kids would play together. A lot of those times were tight here in this backyard because it's so big.

JH: What historical events do you remember in your time here, that impacted the neighborhood, the city? **VO:** When the war was over (1945) there was fire in the street on University Hill. I was pregnant with Linda (middle child) and decided to go see it with Kay and it was very happy there but crazy. The students were wild. So I turned right around and went home. That was a riot but nobody complained, not even the city, everyone was just so happy the war was over. Oh and during the war the speed limit was reduced to 35 miles an hour to save fuel for the war effort. And lots of us here had victory gardens. We had them so we could grow our own vegetables so that the soldiers overseas could get what they needed. There was a food shortage. That was our way to provide relief. **KS:** And once the National Bureau of Standards was built, Eisenhower (Dwight D. Eisenhower, the thirty-fourth U.S. President) came for the dedication. We could see his motorcade from here (on Mariposa). We walked over and there were bleachers set up for the dedication and his speech. That was a big deal. **VO:** I will never forget he had the coldest eyes. He was nice I guess but his eyes seemed so cold. **KS:** I remember a gas station was on every corner in town. **VO:** There was one there at 20th and Baseline where Baseline School is (now New Vista High School). We'd buy bread there. **KS:** Oh and mom and dad got THE first new car available in Boulder after the war. **VO:** It was a Ford, five passenger coupe from Arnold Ford (dealership in Boulder). We just got our name on the list first I guess. It was kind of fun to drop the kids off at School (Uni Hill Elementary) and show it off a little. **JH:** What are your highlights from living in this neighborhood? **KS:** There was the sledding on Columbine. The city would put blockades at Columbine and kids would come from all over and sled. Some would start from clear up at Chautauqua where Columbine started. It was mostly only for older children. **VO:** They would have a 1/2 oil drum at 16th and Columbine with a fire in it to keep warm by and that's where the city supervisor would be. **KS:** Then we'd come home for hot cocoa. **KS:** And then our neighbor across the street had the first solar house in Boulder. **VO:** There was a glass roof and the high winds always broke the glass. It heated the rocks under the foundation which was supposed to warm the house. **VO:** I remember Austin Scott (neighbor, CU professor and tennis player) had an old car with a rumble seat in the back that would fold out and he would take these kids for rides all over the neighborhood all the time. **KS:** When I was a kid, a friend and I went up to Four Pines to bury a bird that we found dead. Afterwards, we decided to take a short cut down the hill behind Mrs. Rieder's home (1604 Bluebell). She didn't like that. She came out of the blue with a shotgun and chased us, firing it at us to scare us off. It was black pepper or something like that. The shotgun seemed really big to us. We didn't do that again. **VO:** She called it her wild bird sanctuary and didn't like people anywhere near there.

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At top: A photo taken in 1951 frames Kay, 7, brother Norman, 3 and sister Linda, 5, as mom, Virginia, stands behind. photo courtesy Virginia Ostrander



Movies have always been shown in the Chautauqua Auditorium, even when this photo was taken in 1899. Photo courtesy Chautauqua Association

Neighborhood Real Estate Market Watch - OCT 1st thru DEC 31st...

SALE PENDING		AVAILABLE	
1711 Bluebell.....	\$837,500	1727 Bluebell Ave.....	\$550,000
		2110 Columbine Ave.....	\$560,000
		205 Devon Pl.....	\$799,000
		1502 Columbine Ave.....	\$849,000
		1505 Bluebell Ave.....	\$950,000
		1901 Bluebell Ave.....	\$1,599,999
		520 14th St.....	\$2,050,000
		1401 Mariposa Ave.....	\$2,500,000
		690 11th St.....	\$2,550,000
		1498 King Ave.....	\$2,950,000
		1529 Columbine Ave..	\$3,350,000
		35 Bellevue Dr.....	\$4,400,000

Quarterly Comparison	4th Qtr-2007	vs.	4th Qtr-2006
# of Homes Sold.....	3 homes.....		2 homes
Average Price/sqft.....	\$254/sqft (+8.5%).....		\$234/sqft
Average Price.....	\$734,833 (-.06%).....		\$739,250
Median Price.....	\$749,500 (+11%).....		\$675,000
Avg. Days on Mkt.....	166days.....		116days
Purchase Price to List Price.....	91% avg.....		98% avg
Lowest Price.....	\$580,000.....		\$675,000
Highest Price.....	\$875,000.....		\$803,500

Information from IRES Multiple Listing Service deemed reliable but not guaranteed



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