

PUEBLO WEST DECADE OF PROGRESS

CELEBRATION

Pueblo West residents are gearing up for the week-long "Decade of Progress" Celebration, starting July 2. A softball tournament kicks off the festivities with numerous activities scheduled throughout the week, ending in the "Grand Finale" on July 8. What better way to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Pueblo West than by a week-long celebration for and by its residents. Activities will include something for everyone, such as: softball tournament, swim meet, golf tournament, fishing derby, sailing regatta and endurance races. For the less physically exuberant there are carnivals, skits, hot-air balloon exhibitions, dances, dog obedience shows, model rocket classes, barbecues, dinners, watermelon eating contests and fireworks. There will also be rodeo events. Take an objective look at Pueblo West. You'll find we've come a long way in these 10 years; from bare prairie to an energetic, growing community of people with diverse backgrounds, pulling together to build an open, viable way of life. Sometimes the day-to-day problems seem like Pueblo West isn't going anywhere. That's the time to look at all we've accomplished in a *mere* ten years. Let's all celebrate the first ten years and start planning our next ten!

**PUEBLO
WEST**

10

DECADE OF PROGRESS

1969-79

THE MANAGER COMMENTS

by Arnold E. Gassman, District Manager,
Pueblo West Metropolitan District

At the last Pueblo West Citizens Association meeting held Wednesday evening, April 11, those in attendance heard a discussion regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the Special District versus the incorporated municipality concepts. The discussion also explored in general terms how Pueblo West could benefit by becoming an incorporated municipality as defined under Colorado statutes, and the differences between a statutory municipality and a home rule municipality. Since then, I have heard from people who were not aware of how limited the authority of the Pueblo West governmental organization as a Special District is.

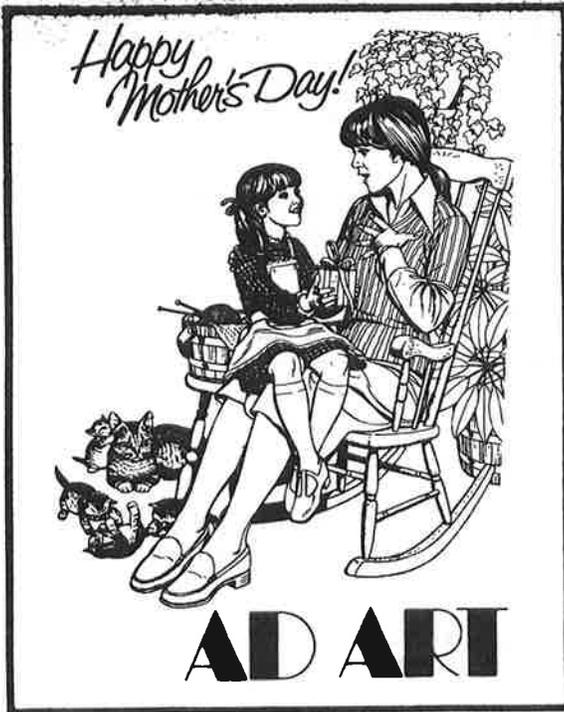
In all probability, at least 95 percent of those of us who have moved to Pueblo West have done so without fully realizing that the District government does not have as many of the powers as the various communities from which we have moved. Only upon arriving in Pueblo West, have most of us learned that Pueblo West does not possess the authority for public safety (law enforcement), animal control, building, plumbing, electrical, zoning, subdivision control administration, all of which come under the heading commonly known as "governmental police powers." Most of us reasonably concluded that since Pueblo West

has its own water and sewer mains and treatment facilities, a fire department, a church, a bank and shopping plaza, that all municipal functions usually considered part of a governmental authority was automatically included. The fact is, the Pueblo West Metropolitan District has authority for administration for parks and recreation, streets and roads, water and sanitation, fire protection and mosquito abatement. The powers the District has in those areas is restricted, in that while we have the responsibility to administer these municipal functions, we have limited powers of enforcement, except through the County court system, with the County Sheriff's Department providing the public safety functions in terms of law enforcement.

Until April 6, 1978, the District did not have the authority to maintain its streets or to contract for maintenance. It had only the power to construct them. Streets and roads maintenance is under the authority of Pueblo County, and it is the responsibility of the County to perform maintenance, grading, snow removal, weed mowing and other maintenance functions. However, to the best of anyone's knowledge in Pueblo West, no piece of County machinery ever travelled over Pueblo West roads.

Complex statutes, as well as disputes over road specifications between the County, Pueblo West and the Developer, presented a serious legal problem. Also in question was newly adopted County standards as they applied to Pueblo West, because Pueblo West was approved before the standards were adopted by the County. During the time that the three separate entities were trying to determine the intent of the law as it pertained to Pueblo West roads, road maintenance was performed by the Developer. To alleviate the legal problem, it was necessary to approach the State Legislature to have the statute amended to allow the District to contract with Pueblo County for state Highway Users Tax Funds (HUTF), to be funneled to Pueblo West conditioned upon the District performing its own road maintenance, which included purchasing its own machinery, and providing the necessary personnel and materials.

Although there were many who warned the District that unsurmountable obstacles stood in the way of success through the Legislature and the County, perseverance prevailed and the mission was accomplished. After the amendment to the statute was signed by the Governor, Pueblo West entered into an agreement with Pueblo County on April 6, 1978. Since then the District has purchased two used motor-graders, an end loader, and a dump truck for road maintenance purposes. This was accomplished through funds made available with another road



maintenance agreement with the Developer, which was entered into in November of 1977. Included in this agreement was the commitment of the District to bring certain roads which had been deteriorating up to proper standards. In the meantime, the Developer, during 1978 was paving streets which the Developer had under commitment to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The District has employed four additional men for road maintenance work and has moved two others into the road maintenance department from other District departments. One man, a supervisor who had thirty-two years' of State highway road maintenance experience and was working in the District's water department, was appointed as Road Maintenance Superintendent. The other man who had moved into the road maintenance department was experienced as a heavy equipment operator. The other men had little or no experience in road maintenance and had to be trained. The supervisor has recently submitted his resignation because he wishes to retire, which leaves us with a supervisory position to fill.

It is with this skeleton crew that the District is attempting to bring District roads up to standards which will be acceptable to the County and State for HUTF funds. Thus far, we have had approximately 240 miles accepted by the State for funding, which translates into approximately \$31,700 for the District in 1979. In 1980, as the \$511 per mile of road allotment prevails under the HUTF funds, we will receive approximately \$149,900. This would appear to be a windfall of money for Pueblo West, and it is extremely helpful. However, when we recognize that we have a total of nearly 400 miles of streets and roads to maintain, this money falls far short of the needed funds.

The question arises as to how much it costs to maintain roads. Colorado records show that roads that have been raised to an acceptable standard insofar as base, sub-base and traffic wearing surface is concerned, cost an average of \$800 per mile per year to maintain. This translates into \$320,000 per year for road maintenance cost in Pueblo West!

Currently, we are making every possible effort to repair roads which have not had the needed gravel placed on them since they were first built. In addition, we are finding that intersections of streets needed to be regraded to permit proper water run-off. On our priority list are over 200 regularly used intersections which are in need of extensive repair. Last winter snows were extremely hard on the roads, both the paved and unpaved. Judging from the numerous calls the Board members and I have had regarding the undesirable road conditions in various sections of the District, it is apparent that citizens are experiencing various degrees of inconvenience, because of the poor



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road conditions. We are aware of most of the bad spots and we are working on them on a worst-come-first priority basis.

It's a tremendous task to gain on the problem, but we are optimistic that if our used equipment remains operable without too many breakdowns, (one motor-grader is down now — 30 days loss) we should make noticeable improvements.

Hopefully this general description of just one facet of the operations of the District will be helpful to you as citizens. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call or stop by to see me and I'll be happy to discuss them with you.

NEW BUSINESS IN PUEBLO WEST

Mr. Steve Verhoeff from Pueblo has opened an office in the industrial park area of Pueblo West. The address is 36 N. Research Drive. The name of his company is Cardinal Truck Brokerage Inc. Other than himself, he has two employees at present, with plans for expansion in the near future. They are mainly in the load-finding business for independent truckers. Cardinal Truck Brokerage Inc. is a branch of the company from Phoenix, Ariz.

We would like to welcome them to Pueblo West, and wish them a very bright future.

BEAUTY TIPS

The swim team is starting strong this year. That means that summer and its activities are not far behind. Here are a few hints for all the outside and pool lovers.

Before going into the pool, rub a little instant conditioner on your hair. Be sure to use one that is non-greasy. You can obtain this type at your favorite beauty salon. Chlorine may be good for the pool but it can be very damaging to your hair. It can leave your hair not only dull but very dry. It eats away at the hair shaft and cuticle. After swimming and washing your hair, be sure to again apply more conditioner, but this time rinse it out.

Not only is chlorine damaging to hair but so is that beautiful sun we all wait for. The sun can also dry the hair out and may even bleach the color. Conditioners should be used faithfully throughout the summer. When you are going outside for any length of time, be sure to wear a scarf or hat. Protect your hair and scalp from the sun.

Summer is also a time for the pony tail set to appear. Be sure not to sleep in pony tails, when you do you rip the hair. There is a way to put your pony tails in without putting the hair through a rubber band. It's hard to describe but easy to do so stop in and ask your operator the secret.

Take care of your hair and have an enjoyable summer whatever activity you participate in.

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