

Central City, rebuilt and repaired in recent years, is a peaceful little community today. But once it was the richest and wildest town west of the Mississippi. Fortunes in gold were dug from the surrounding mountains and were spent quicker than they were made. The town's annual play and opera festival is scheduled for July 1 through August.

CENTRAL CITY FESTIVAL

Colorado Ghost Town Is Alive With Revival of Opera Season

In 1895 a fortune hunter by the name of John H. Gregory was prospecting in the mountain section of Colorado which is now less than an hour from Denver. He wandered into a gulch framed by aspen and heavy scented pine. It was there he stuck his pick into a lode that yielded 20 million dollars worth of gold.

That strike founded Central City which was to become known for a time as the most evil city west of the Mississippi. It also became associated with many fabulous names of the theater, politics and finance of the era.

Gregory named the gulch after himself and it soon became known as the "richest square mile on earth."

Miners swarmed into the area and the usual claim jumping and drinking and killing plagued Central City. But more important to the new citizens, gold by the millions was being dug from the surrounding mountains. Women followed the miners—dancehall girls at first—and finally the wives of miners and businessmen.

Imported Big Name Stars

Within a year the millions were building a town in the mountains of Colorado where stuffed pheasant, oysters from San Francisco, and bubbling champagne were not uncommon.

It was not long before the rough men who took their wealth from the earth wanted culture and entertainment. They had a pocket full of money and wanted the best. Entertainment is always for sale. They purchased it in such doses that Central City sparkled as brightly as such cities as San Francisco, New York, and New Orleans.

The greatest stars of the day—Keane, Booth, Menchen, and Sarah "the divine" Bernhardt—journeyed from the east, braving the rugged mountain passes in stagecoaches, to appear at the theater, one of the first buildings erected in the town.

In those days Central City took its entertainment straight, as straight as its whiskey. From 1890 the city boasted a three months season of plays and operas running from sombre tragedy and lurid drama to roaring farce.

When the theater burned in 1874 a subscription was taken up and a new opera house built of stone. It still stands.

Today the miners, with the exception of a few old-timers, and their free spending ways have vanished. The mines were gradually exhausted and Central City almost became a ghost town.

The opera house remained, however, and in 1932 was repaired, restoring to the old town once more the thrill of live theater and expectant audiences. New stars were shipped in by plane and train to make the building echo with real music and vibrant voices. That began the period of annual play and opera festival. They have continued with the exception of the war years. This year the festival is scheduled from July 1 through August.

Two Operas Planned

Again the Teller House, which once housed President Grant, vivacious Baby Doe Tabor and her husband, and the theater great, will bustle with curious crowds from all over the world. They'll pour into the hotel's famous bar and stand over "the face on the barroom floor"—inspiration of the well-known poem.

This year the opera season will see the performance of "Madame Butterfly" and "Don Pasquale," featuring stars of the Metropolitan Opera. For the play season which follows,

Serenades New Feature of Festival

A new feature of the festival this year will be the Central City serenades to be held on Sunday nights as informal request concerts in which the audience will request songs from the various stars.

Other entertainment besides the plays and operas will be evening performances of Dr. Lloyd Shaw's Cheyenne mountain folk dancers in the gardens between the Opera house and the Teller House.



The Central City Opera house as it appears today. Here such immortals as Bernhardt, Booth, Gish, and Menchen thrilled the culture crazy miners. Stars of today perform on the same stage during the summer play and opera festival.

drama fans will see George Bernard Shaw's comedy "The Devil's Disciple," now appearing in New York under the direction of Maurice Evans. The whole New York company will be shipped to Central City on August 5 for four weeks.

On July 26 national theater and music notables will gather on the stage of the opera house to form the annual critique. This informative panel discussion is fast becoming known as the "town hall meeting of the entertainment world." Past members of the panel have been the late Burns Mantel, Hedda Hopper, Howard Taubman, Saul Caston, James Michener, Virgil Thompson, Gypsy Rose Lee, Eleanor Steber, Jerome Hines, Hanyu Holm and Emil Cooper.

It is amazing that one small town hidden away in the backbone of the continental divide could hold so much dramatic and musical tradition. Many are calling Central City the Salzburg or Edinburgh of the United States because of the festivals.

Will Recapture Past

The thousands who attend are not there for the music and plays entirely. They want to recapture the atmosphere that once made Central City the "rip-snorter" of the west.

They will find that atmosphere in the mementoes along the road leading to the old mining community and the old buildings which have been repaired and made usable.

Theater-goers attending the traditional "first night" will find themselves surrounded by patrons clad in the costumes of the late 1880's.

And when the final curtain is rung down and the encores are over, they will again get a touch of the gaudy night life reminiscent of the wild and fabulous seventies.

Once again Central City will shake off the dust and cobwebs of the past to become the "richest square mile of earth"—and, perhaps, bring back a few of the ghosts of a lost era.

Should Have Worked

A YOUNG MAN was being examined as to his qualifications for an important position at Columbia university. "This job," the preliminary interviewer told him, "requires the ability to handle people in a way that will retain their good will, under any circumstances."

Thus briefed, the young man sailed past one examiner after another until he came to the final test—an interview with President Eisenhower himself.

The conversation went along without proving much of anything until suddenly General Ike leaned forward and asked: "Whom do you consider the three greatest men in American history?"

"I didn't quite catch your name, sir," replied the candidate, "but the other two are Washington and Lincoln."

BURNED 'EM UP



A woman was talking with a friend about the athletic achievements of the latter's son.

Your boy must be an exceptionally fast runner; I see by this morning's paper that he fairly burned up the track with his record-breaking speed. I suppose you saw him do it?"

"No, I didn't see him do it," replied the boy's mother. "But I saw the track this morning and there was nothing but cinders there."

Give Him Time!

They had new neighbors and the wife was much interested in them. In a few days she reported:

"They seem a most devoted couple, John. He kisses her every time he goes out, and even waves kisses to her from the sidewalk. Why don't you do that?"

"Why don't I?" replied John. "Good heavens! I don't even know her yet."

Stickler for Truth

He had had hard luck fishing, and on his way home he entered the fish market and said to the dealer, "Just stand over there and throw me five of the biggest of those trout!"

"Throw 'em? What for?" asked the dealer in amazement.

"So I can tell the family I caught 'em. I may be a poor fisherman, but I'm no liar."

Change of Climate

"I have told your wife that she must go to the mountains."

"That's all right, doctor; now tell me I must go to the seashore."

Surprise!

"Has he ever tried to tell you about his fears?"

"Gracious! Don't tell me he is an animal trainer!"

Unfailing Technique

"Were you excited when you first asked your husband for money?"

"Oh, no, I was calm—and collected."

No Spacing

Why do they always sit like this Upon the bus I miss; And on the next that comes along They're all jammed in like this?"

DID HIM GOOD



At a club in Hollywood a young actor was introduced to a film critic. The writer's first picture had just been shown, and he immediately asked the critic for his opinion of it.

"It was very refreshing," returned the critic.

"Say, that's swell," beamed the actor. "Did you really find it so refreshing?"

"Absolutely," was the reply. "I felt like a new man when I woke up!"

CONFUSED BIRD

Hubby: "When anything goes wrong around our house, I just get busy and fix it."

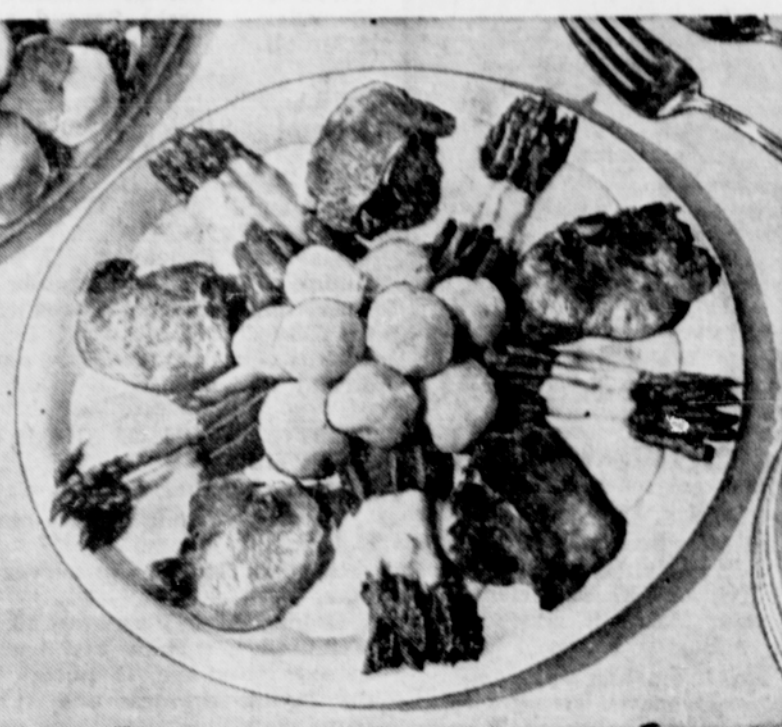
Wife: "Oh, yeah! Since you fixed the clock the cuckoo backs out and asks, 'What time is it?'"

Simple Wants

"I must tell you that my daughter can bring her husband only her beauty and her intellect."

"I don't mind—many young couples have started in a very small way."

HOUSEHOLD MEMOS... by Lynn Chambers



New Potatoes, Fresh Asparagus Team With Pork Chops (See Recipes Below)

Spring Vegetable Treats

As gentle showers coax brilliantly colored vegetables from the moist brown earth, imaginative homemakers can perform equally miraculous deeds with the foods in their kitchens.

With a dash of imagination, all vegetables can come in for plenty of honors and encores. A special set of seasonings, a few sauces, or a certain arrangement of several vegetables are all that are needed to make any member of the vegetable family a real treat.

Golden carrots, plump asparagus spears, deep green spinach and snowy white onions, as well as others lend themselves to the recipes given in today's column. Use them often to pep the vegetable portions of your daily menus.

French Fried Asparagus (Serves 8)

- 1 No. 2 can asparagus spears or 24 to 27 fresh asparagus spears
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Dash onion salt
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 cup dry bread crumbs

Drain juice from asparagus spears. Combine flour, salt and onion salt; roll each asparagus spear in this mixture. Group three floured asparagus spears together. Dip each group in combined beaten egg and water and roll again in dry bread crumbs. French fry in deep fat (390°) for four minutes or until brown. Serve hot.

Spring Vegetable Casserole (Serves 4)

- 4 ounces elbow spaghetti
- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 tablespoons enriched flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Pepper
- 1 cup vegetable liquid
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 to 1 1/2 cups cooked asparagus
- 1/2 cup buttered bread crumbs

Cook spaghetti in boiling salted water until tender (about eight minutes). Drain and rinse. While spaghetti is cooking, melt butter in saucepan. Add flour, salt and pepper and mix well. Gradually pour in vegetable liquid and lemon juice stirring constantly until thickened. Cut asparagus into one-inch pieces leaving four or five spears whole for garnish. Fold cut asparagus and spaghetti into sauce. Pour into greased 1 1/2 quart casserole. Arrange uncut asparagus spears on top and sprinkle with buttered bread crumbs. Bake in a moderate oven (350°) 30 minutes.

*Spring Salad Plate (Serves 6)

- 2 pounds asparagus, fresh-cooked whole stalks
- 6 medium-sized beets, cooked
- 1/2 cup French dressing
- 6 hard-cooked eggs
- 1 cucumber
- Leaf lettuce
- Stuffed olives

Cut beets in thin slices. Spread asparagus and beets in shallow dish. Pour French dressing over them; let stand in refrigerator one hour or more. Remove shells from hard-cooked eggs, cut each egg in half lengthwise and remove yolks to bowl. Mash yolks with fork; add any desired seasonings, mayonnaise, etc. Refill egg whites with mixture. Cover with waxed paper and keep in refrigerator until serving time. Arrange lettuce on individual plates, dividing into three sections. Place alternating slices of beets and cucumber in another section. Place two deviled egg halves in third. Garnish with stuffed olives. Tasty, salt crackers are often served with salad plates.

Creamed Spinach (Serves 6)

- 1 1/2 pounds spinach
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1/2 slice garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons bread crumbs
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- Dash of nutmeg
- 1 cup soup stock or milk

Wash spinach thoroughly. Cook without any additional water until tender (about 10 minutes). Drain and chop fine. Melt butter, add onion and garlic and brown. Then add remaining ingredients and spinach and cook together five minutes.

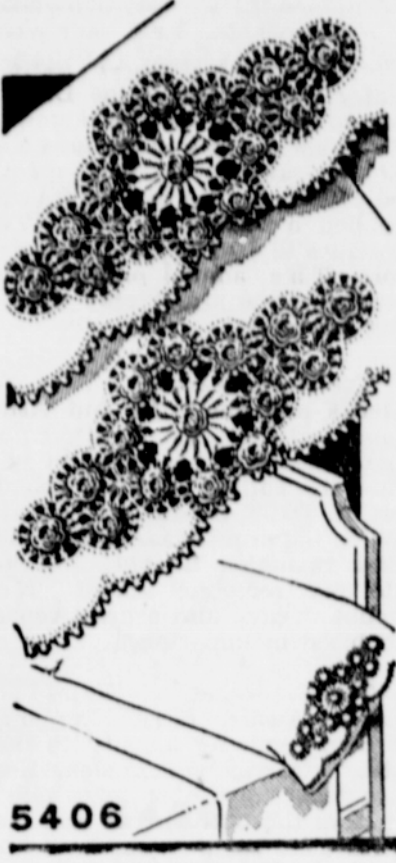
LYNN SAYS:

Store Foods Carefully During Warm Weather

Honey and other syrups thin out during warm weather. They should be tightly covered and stored at room temperature. Cold temperatures such as those available in refrigeration may cause them to crystallize.

Curtain your supply on hand of dried fruits during hot weather because of the ease with which weevils attack them. Buy only as needed.

Bright Note for Kitchen Dainty Irish Rose Motifs



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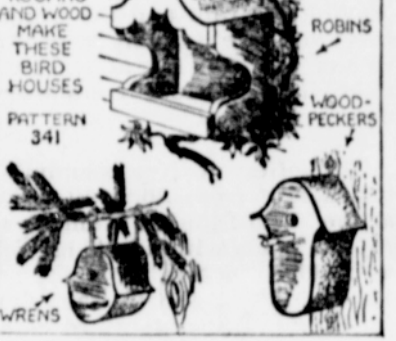
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Many professional "dowsers" who employ forked stick "divining rods" sincerely believe in their magic powers to find water underground, but scientists say they are deceived, according to Richards Topical Encyclopedia. The turning of the twig is due to unconscious acts of muscle and nerves while squeezing the stick.

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HEY, KIDS! SOME FUN! HAND PUPPETS!

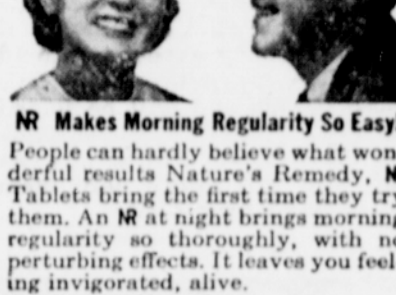


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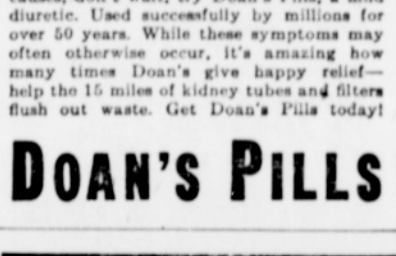
Without Painful Backache

As we get older, stress and strain, over-exertion, excessive smoking or exposure to cold sometimes impair permanent comfort function. This may lead many folks to complain on nagging backache, loss of pep and energy, headaches and dizziness. Getting up nights or frequent passages may result from minor bladder irritations due to cold, dampness or dietary indiscretions.

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