



ARKANSAS VALLEY VOICES

SALIDA STEAM PLANT THEATER
JUNE, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 1998

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ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHS Bob Rush, Wendell Hutchison, Verneal Cross, Richard Dixon, Donna Nevins, Salida Historical Society, Buena Vista Heritage Museum, and the following valley families: Baumdicker, Flowers, Forman, Gentry, Herrly, Larkin, Love, Morrison, Scanga, Roman, and Turner.

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CAST

1st Woman	Denise Ronald
2nd Woman	Mary Dean Lyford
3rd Woman	Saba McWilliams
1st Man	Ronald Reginald
2nd Man	Richard Walton
3rd Man	Jack Leighton
Policeman	Al Edlund Jr.
Homemaker	Shelley Jacobs
Young People	Naia Dzubinski, Joshua Purvis
Chorus/narrators	Dora Earl, Rita Fasching, Dulany Woodward, Gayle Dudley
Singers	David Sommerhauser, Jack Chivvis, Jim Hutchings, Frank Steiner, Jon Moorhead, James Gobin, Pat Areaux
Dancers	Shelley Jacobs, Laura Schoeck, Ivy Lindsey, Ashleigh Morawski, Kari Brantley, Janice Edmonds, Donna Griesel, Vicki Altstaetler, Amy and John Zelig, Norma Conroe, Terry Dunn and Greg Walter, Bill and Mary Reeves, Dennis Lee, Bonnie Weinke-Poser
Accompanist	Frank Lanaghen

THERE WILL BE A 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION BETWEEN ACTS

PRODUCTION

Director	Jeanne Rasmussen
Technical Director	Susan Topping
Technical Assistants	Chris Poulos, Roxanne Amidon, Greg Amidon,
Photography	Ron Slaughter
Choreographers	Jeanne Schoeck, Norma Conroe
Stage Manager	Hazel Pflueger
Lobby Exhibit	Meredith Nelson
Posters	Nancy Vickery
Publicity	Marti Thomas, Judith Janay, Katie Walton
Fund Raising	Marti Thomas, Judith Janay

ARKANSAS VALLEY VOICES: A BRIEF HISTORY

The idea for this show came from Jeanne Rasmussen listening to a public radio broadcast while she was driving back to Colorado from Michigan. It was a delightful historic theater show from a small town in central Pennsylvania and it was on the radio for about 30 minutes. "We can do that in Chaffee County", she said, and here we are.

So she assembled an enthusiastic group of 25 volunteers who met for the first time in April, 1996. Each of these committed persons (see list elsewhere in the program) volunteered to dig through old newspaper files and microfilms for a specific period of time. The beginning date was 1870. The dogged group met each month in the basement of the Salida Regional Library for more than a year to share anecdotes culled from their searches and to suggest changes in the search process. Interest was kept at a high pitch by frequent presentations by representatives of old families in the Valley who fleshed out details not available in the papers.

The second phase of the process was difficult. Editing the gold mine of materials down to a length an audience could sit through in comfort meant discarding many many nuggets. But the editors persevered and the current script is the outcome.

Last came the selection of an appropriate cast, the melding of direct quotes from the past with suitable music, dance, timely photographs, and a narrative to hold it together. It has all come together in fine fashion.

It is important to note, for the long time residents of the valley especially, that "Arkansas Valley Voices" is not intended to be a definitive history of Chaffee County. It is a theatrical production. In order to have a show that could be put on in one presentation much substantive material had to be omitted. We hope these omissions will not be offensive to anyone in the audience. Our primary goal was to entertain in the context of past events in the history of Chaffee County.

Jeanne Rasmussen, Director