POLITICS

Ten of the ministries arrived in 1991, including the largest, Focus on the Family. Founder James Dobson broadcasts his socially conservative, pro-family message to 1,600 radio stations daily.

As a group, the ministries are a major economic force, producing a $475 million payroll and employing 2,200 people — people who consider it part of their religious duty to shape public policy to Christian principles.

There were small signs before the caucuses that the evangelical community might act on that sense of obligation. In its Feb. 17 "Citizen" magazine, Focus on the Family urged readers to attend the caucuses in an article titled "If You Wait 'til Nov. 3, You'll Be Too Late."

Fifty people turned out at an April 5 meeting at New Life Church to learn how to become delegates to party assemblies, where they could influence which candidates go on to the primary election. But organizers were disappointed: They had expected to see more.

See RELIGIOUS/B2

HEALTH & HISTORY

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

The Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal organization which sold life insurance, of Kiowa Street and Nevada Avenue, members who had tuberculosis free treatment at its sanatorium in Colorado Springs.

Around turn of century, tuberculosis patients sought cure in Springs

By D'Arcy Fallon/Gazette Telegraph

More than 40 years after it was thought to have been eradicated in the United States, tuberculosis is making a powerful comeback, exacerbated by AIDS, poverty and increased immigration from nations where TB is endemic.

While surprised health officials try to treat contagious patients afflicted by the hardy disease, one thing is certain: Nobody is coming to Colorado Springs for the cure.

The cure. At the turn of the century, wasted migrants poured into Colorado Springs, seeking miracle cures and relief in the area's cool, dry air. Bacteria became the talk of the town, fueling a sanatorium explosion and warnings against "promiscuous spreads of the disease."

- Rise in cases not an epidemic/B2
- Bovine variety worries ranchers/B2 - expectoration

TB still plays a role in Colorado Springs — but it's a role rooted in the past, not in the present. The legacy of TB and its attendant health industry left an indelible mark on the city, affecting its culture, history and architecture.

Beginning in the mid-1880s, Colorado Springs was known by its devotees as Sanatorium City, the Health Mecca of the West, and in less dazzling terms, the Sputum Hole of Humanity.

For more than 50 years, tuberculosis seeking hope, a certain mental buoyancy, came by the thousands from damp, polluted cities to chase the cure in the area's dry, sunny climate.

In the face of one of the world's weirdest bugs — which can ravage the lungs and spread to the liver, kidneys, lymph nodes and brain — the methods used back then by doctors in Colorado Springs to fight it seem quaint and strange today.

TB victims submitted to a range of treatments that included forced feedings, forced bed rest, hypnosis, bizarre elixirs, sunbathing, electricity and sleeping outside. Fresh air, and lots of it, was believed to be the best treatment for TB.

As one early-day observer noted in a burst of hyperbole, the West was opened up "By minerals, cattle and consumption."

In Colorado Springs, the latter was especially true. The city "flourished on the bedrock of disease," writes Douglas McKay, See TB/B2
By D'Arcy Faillon/Gazette Telegraph

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In Colorado Springs, the latter was especially true. The city "flourished on the bedrock of disease," writes Douglas McKay, See TB/B2

Marshall Sprague spent five months at Glickner Hospital, now Penrose Hospital, when he arrived in Colorado Springs for tuberculosis treatment. Sprague and his wife, Edna Jane, said TB patients also had to fight boredom.

here wasn't any treatment for TB except staying in bed and being happy. It sounds perfectly terrible but once you get over the idea that you're stuck there, you find your life is just as active as if you were well."

Marshall Sprague
No alarms are sounded over TB here

Drug-resistant strain not seen

Gazette Telegraph

The Public Health Service estimates that more than 26,000 Americans came down with tuberculosis last year, a 10 percent rise since 1986.

The outbreak of TB, caused by an airborne, drug-resistant strain, is especially worrisome because several hundred cases have been caused by a more lethal, drug-resistant strain. The strain is more deadly than the regular TB and is harder to treat.

The outbreak varies from city to city, with New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago hardest hit by the disease. The TB cases in these cities have doubled in the past two years, health officials say.

"People in Colorado Springs shouldn't be alarmed," said Marilyn Bosenberg, a nurse supervisor for the Colorado Springs Department of Health and Environment. "We don't have any drug-resistant TB that we're aware of."

The symptoms of TB include coughing, weight loss, night sweats and fatigue, or any combination of these symptoms. The disease is airborne and can be spread by droplets when a TB sufferer coughs.

ACTIVE CASES


Source: El Paso County Department of Health and Environment.

Bovine form of disease rises slowly

Gazette Telegraph

A professor at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and author of "Asylum of the Olded Mill," a book about the Cragmore Sanatorium, new site for UCCS.

Before the turn of the century, the city of Colorado Springs boasted that the city had an average of 310 days of sunshine a year. In October, the city's atmosphere was described as "absolutely aseptic and free from all germs of life."

The public relations job worked. More than a third of Colorado Springs' residents in the 1890s and 1900s came for their health, primarily to fight TB.

Many of the patial homes in the North End were designed for people who wanted to turn them into boarding homes for tuberculosis patients. Several homes along North Nevada Avenue, known as "tuberculous row," still retain the backyard TB cottages and tents where afflicted people were once isolated, says Mike Riley, an architect whose grandmother came to Colorado Springs from Pennsylvania to live.

The influx of hocking hordes included writers, artists, bankers and doctors, many of whom would recover and become adopted residents of a growing city.

Businessman James J. Hagerman came in 1884 expecting to die but instead made a miraculous recovery and went on to build the Midland Railroad on Ute Pass and all the way to Aspen. Others included publisher Helen H. Jackson, who believed "climate is fate," and Artus Van Briggle, who suffered from what proved to be an incurable disease.

In his short story, "The Art of Van Briggle," written in 1899, Van Briggle brought the Art Nouveau style to Colorado Springs and became world famous for his pottery designs and glazes.

Sanatoriums earn reputation as liberal

Forty-two years after Van Briggle's arrival, Marshall Sprague, suffering from the same disease, got off the train here and went directly to Cragmore, now Penrose Hospital.

The local historian spent five months at Cragmore, then spent months convalescing at a screen-in porch off his bedroom.

When the weather turned cold, Sprague piled on blankets to keep warm. Living on the porch took some getting used to, recalled Sprague, 81, in his 1934 book, "The Business of Getting Well." He chronicled his battle with TB and beted upon the climate as a cure.

"There was no need to treat for TB except staying in bed and being happy," he said. "It sounds perfectly terrible, but once you get over the idea that you're stuck there, you find your life is just as active as if you were well."

Fortunately, Sprague's lung cavities were closed enough that he wasn't contagious. Which was a good thing, considering he had ample contact with his wife, Edna Jane.

"It seems with TB, you get very nervous. Sprague said. "The worse things get, the more babies we had." Edna Jane Sprague concurred. "It (having TB) was stimulating in a funny way. All those, that is, those children were hordes of sex."

Cragmore sanatorium was famous for dalliances among its elite TB patients, many of whom were millionaires.

"Mountain high living became high life in the mountains," UCCS' McKay wrote.

From B1

Tuberculosis on the rise in the U.S.

Tuberculosis (or TB) after years of decline is now on the upswing in this country. Here are some facts about this infectious disease:

**What is it?**
- Caused by a bacteria, spread mostly from person to person through the air; usually settles in lungs.

**How it is transmitted?**
- Person with the disease coughs, infecting droplets into the air that are then inhaled by others.

**Once infected, a person's body may harbor TB organisms for years; becomes active when body's immune system is weak.

**Other facts**
- Drug-resistant TB bacteria poses new danger.
- 94% of U.S. active cases are foreign-born persons; additional 24% are elderly.
- Estimated 10 million to 15 million infected people in U.S.
- Eight million new cases each year worldwide.

**Testing and treatment**
- Tests: X-ray, check spueter for bacteria, skin test.
- Treatment: Take two or more drugs for six to nine months.

**Who is at risk?**
- Someone sharing the same airspace with infected person.
- People who are HIV positive or have weakened immune systems.

**Tuberculosis cases in U.S.**

- 1970: 100,000
- 1980: 35,000
- 1990: 25,000
- 1991: 23,000

Photos courtesy of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.

Knight-Ridder Tribune News

Colonies of octagonal teepee-like tents, used by several local sanatoriums, were known as Gardner tents, in honor of developer Dr. Charles Gardner.

Other patients preferred to pursue health by drinking martinis in their pajamas on their sun porches, riding croquet, playing polo and racing their motor cars.

At one point, there were 25 sanatoriums in Colorado Springs. Prices ranged from $7 a week for a basic room to $500 a week for a luxurious suite. Hundreds of victims who couldn't afford places like the Cragmore faced starker accommodations in octagonal, one-roomed tents that looked like Indian teepees.

The tents, scattered in parks and in distant sanatoria, were designed by Dr. Charles Gardner.

Related: Disease figure the past

From B1

The Gazette Telegraph reported on disease figures from the past.

A Team for the Calendar

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Bovine form of disease rises slowly

Gazette Telegraph

While tuberculosis in humans is experiencing an alarming resurgence nationwide, bovine TB — which wiped out many a cattleman earlier in the century — is only a small bureaucracy.

There have been scattered reports of infected herds across the country, but not in Colorado, according to the National Cattlemen's Association.

The federal agriculture department confirmed three infected herds in both 1986 and 1987, 13 in 1990 and 10 in 1991. This year, two new cases were reported.

The majority of infected herds are dairy cows from around the state, Texas authorities say.

The federal government first launched its bovine TB eradication program in 1917, when 4.9 percent of all cattle had the disease. Since then, the incidence rate has gradually declined. But TB has proved to be a stubborn disease.

Ranchers worry that the infection rate might rise if steps aren't taken to address the risk of TB spreading from rapidly expanding herds of domesticated deer and elk.

There are more than 600,000 farmed deer in the United States and Canada, and nine states have infected herds. The disease can be passed between cattle and deer.

The Norrarch Ranch, which operated from 1901 to 1903, was the state's first open-air sanatorium. Dr. John E. White, who ran the sanatorium, prescribed the open-air life.

Sanatoriums earn reputation as liberal

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The local historian spent five months at Glicker Rock, then spent months convalescing on a screened-in porch of his home.

When the weather turned cold, Sprague piled blankets to keep warm. Living on the porch took some getting used to, recalled Sprague. His 1943 book, "The Business of Getting Well," chronicled his battle with TB — and boredom.

"I always had my tree and kept a bird in my pocket," said Sprague. "I didn't have much to do in my tree, but I did have a lot of fun in my yard." Degrassi said Sprague was known for his dailiness among his elite TB patients, many of whom were millionaires.

"High mountain living became high life in the mountains," Degrassi wrote.

Cromer was known throughout the sanatorium world for his fiddle playing. But TB patients in the mountains were often too sick to appreciate the music. They were too preoccupied with staying alive to enjoy the beauty of the landscape.

Not all accommodations were grand

Colorado Springs' open-air cure was based on the European approach to TB. The first patients were taken to fresh mountain air and disciplined gluttony.

At the Norrarch Ranch, a outdoor sanatorium was opened in 1902. Each patient was stymied beyond satisfaction.

Gaining between 25 and 50 pounds was believed to be an integral part of the cure. Hungry patients were forced to eat twice as much as they should.

At the same time, it was important to keep all patients away from the tubercles. The Spring Mountain Springs, which contained the laticitate of soda, was popular among tuberculars because of its purgative powers.

Colleges of octagonal teepee-like tents, used by several local sanatoriums, were known as Gardner tents, in honor of developer Dr. Charles Gardner.

Other patients preferred to pursue health by drinking mineral water in their pajamas on their sun porches, riding horseback, riding croquet, and fishing motor cars.

At one point, there were 16 sanatoriums in the mountains. Prices ranged from $7 a week for a basic room to $50 a week for a luxurious suite.

Bovine tuberculosis is considered contagious but not dangerous to humans. The disease is spread from infected animals to humans who eat or drink milk or other dairy products from infected animals.

The disease can also be spread from infected animals to humans through direct contact with infected animals, such as when a person handles an infected animal or its products.