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THE GAZETTE FILE

Satellite Hotel signs undergoing repairs but no major changes



DID YOU EVER WONDER?

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I was wondering why the Satellite Hotel sign was removed from the top of the hotel? Is it under new ownership and will it be renamed? Thanks for any information.

VIRGINIA SCHIMPF

ANSWER: Nothing quite so serious. Its old (circa 1969) neon signs atop the building are wearing out letter by letter.

General manager Larry Wilson said some repairs have been done, but they're pondering whether to repair signs as each letter goes out or refurbish the building topper completely.

Wilson said that on the sign's north face, the "O" and "T" are out. On the east face, the top of the signature starburst is still illuminated, as is the sign on the west. On the south side, the "O" is out. Wilson explained that the Satellite is a condo building with an HOA that will make the decision. Inside the Satellite are hotel rooms, 241 individually owned condos and 40 businesses. There is a restaurant that had been closed but is expected to reopen in the next few weeks under a new owner.

Years ago, the Satellite penthouse housed several radio stations and was adorned with a flashy, glistening aluminum-strip sign with station call letters.

The Templeton families

Recently, the question was how Templeton Gap was named. We discovered some history, but it showed what appeared to be two families.

Sure enough, Old Colorado City history buffs Dave Hughes and Curt Neeley along with reader Paul Kleinschmidt knew all about the Templetons.

Hughes said there were two Templetons, A.J. and Henry, unrelated, and "who pursued totally different lives in early El Paso County. A.J.'s name was affixed to Templeton Gap because he ranched out there, and there was a kind of gap which was the best road to the Pinery — or Black Forest — which provided timber for the growing county. It was where also later, larger herds of sheep were raised in the 1880s.

"A.J. indeed was one of the 18 men from Colorado City who volunteered to serve in the 3d Colorado Cavalry to march to Sand Creek in 1864 to 'punish the Cheyenne and Arapahoe.' He later became a second lieutenant.

"Henry Templeton, no relation to A.J., arrived in Colorado City with his family, just as the Civil War was heating up. Henry tried several things in Colorado City. He briefly operated the 'Anway Hotel' — called the 'Fort' on today's west Pikes Peak Avenue, which was fortified as refuge for the women and children against Indian threats and attacks. Then he tried operating a flour mill, which failed."

And he purchased land. "When an eastern industrialist with tuberculosis, J. J. Hagerman, came to Colorado Springs in the early 1880s, he had to buy the lots that Henry Templeton owned. Henry then had enough money that he — for \$15,000 — first built the 'Templeton Block,' today's classic three-story brick building at 2502 W. Colorado Ave. Henry then also built the Victorian house for his wife that is on the corner of Pikes Peak and 25th Street across the alley from the Templeton Block building. That house did not pass out of the Templeton family until the 1980s, when it became a restaurant."

Thanks, everyone.

Send questions and answers to questions to linda.navarro@gazette.com.