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Submission for Publication in
WINDSOR WORLD

SUBJECT: COLORADO CONNECTIONS

SUBMISSION DATE: 07/11/11

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TITLE: Colorado Day

WORD COUNT: 515

Colorado Day
by Harry Zirkelbach 06-20-2011

Newcomers to Colorado may not know that they live in the Centennial State, nor why it has that name. Colorado territory was admitted to the Union in 1876 (there were then another 37 States). This was exactly 100 years after the nation was formally founded, July 4, 1776. Thus, the Centennial State.

Well, technically admission missed for the actual anniversary, when ratification was completed weeks later, 1 August 1876.

History buffs know that no state was admitted to the Union in 1776, their pledges awaited the establishing of a Constitution in 1787, when Delaware, Pennsylvania and Virginia all certified the Constitution that year, meriting Statehood rather than Federation, Territory or whatever they were called before. Part of admission, the identity of firm state boundaries.

Nebraska preceded Colorado in admission more than nine years and no other state was admitted for an additional 13 years when North and South Dakota became part of the Union March 1, 1898. At that rate, final admission would not be complete today. So adjustments in admission were made. A major concession, required minimum population total, was dropped.

Just which Windsor Gardens residents can be expected to welcome this 135th Anniversary? Of course, everybody.

Anyone know who was most responsible for Colorado's admission? The governor then? Its population? Those answers are not here. The reminder to celebrate Colorado's admission rests on that small legion of eighty plus souls who throughout the year perform an almost unseen patriotic duty, rain or shine, morning and evening, without pay or notoriety. This legion changes regularly, ever dutiful from one generation to the next. Never asking recognition, claiming any. They are that dedicated. In fact, of the myriad of groups using the Windsor Gardens facility, it is unlikely that any other has this large a constant membership, never discriminate, consider it an honor to complete this duty.

Residents and passerby's will witness their work during Colorado Day, give thanks for this reminder, know they are blessed to live in freedom, have a representative government responsive to the voter; then give not a second thought to that reminder.

For this we salute the men and women who have accepted the task of posting the American and Colorado flags on stanchions either side of the entrance to each building. They place the flags there in the morning, remove them at dusk, store these emblems of our freedom for display seventeen other days of the year. By custom at Windsor Gardens, both flags are shown News Years Day, Inauguration Day, the birth date for Lincoln and Washington, Easter, and these days: Armed Forces, Memorial , Fathers, Flag, Independence, Colorado, Labor,

Constitution, Columbus, Veterans, Thanksgiving, Christmas. Eighteen celebrations of American ideals, reminders of just what all can be thankful for as they pay taxes, meet obligations, join in this wonderful parade, we proudly salute as our forefathers ideal: One nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.

Should the year for each state begin on the day of admission into the Union? States have their own calendar? Nyah, we are One Nation.