

Joyce Gilmer came to Colorado Springs by way of a military husband. Her first impressions were outlined in an extensive interview she did in 1994 for the Pioneers Museum's Voices and Visions Oral History project.

"When I first came here, I didn't know any black who worked at a newspaper," she said. "I don't think they had a lot of black professors at Colorado College for sure, and they had a lot fewer black teachers than they have now. They didn't have any black doctor. . . . Now they have several doctors and lawyers and things like that, but not nearly as many as they should have for a town this size."

It certainly wasn't a climate that looked friendly for Gilmer, who soon became an unemployed, divorced mother of three. Yet, she was driven to survive. She went back to school and became the city's first black woman real estate agent.

She was so good she convinced her landlord to put the house she was renting on the market, and it was the first one she sold. She was homeless but successful.

The clouds of Colorado Springs' past were there as Gilmer began her ascension into the realm of selling real estate.

"When I first started in real estate working with men, (I was) the only woman and (the only) black woman," she said in the oral history interview. "They don't even expect you to say anything. When I used to do a closing . . . I would sit through the whole closing, I'd make sure I found a mistake at the beginning, and then I would call their attention to the mistake so we'd all have to start over."

Though Gilmer was never exposed to it personally, she talked about the existence of red-lining, the practice of showing houses only in certain neighborhoods to people of color while steering white people to other neighborhoods.

"You were not allowed to point out a neighborhood that you couldn't go into," she said. "I guess white people knew more about that than I did because they're not going to tell a black person these areas they don't want you to live in or sell in. . . . But it was beginning to be the topic of conversation at meetings and things like that, that this was not legal and you had better not be caught doing it."

Her personal triumphs—earning a degree, starting her own business, becoming one of the most successful real estate agents in the city—shows just how much the city has changed.

While many old-timers say racism in Colorado Springs is still just below the surface, stories such as Gilmer's point toward fairness.

Last year, signs were erected to identify the newly named Martin Luther King Jr. bypass. The NAACP also celebrated its 10th annual Juneteenth festival—a community party celebrating freedom—on the grounds of Colorado College. Also, the city is in its second round of talks as part of a Community Conversation on Race.

The transformation is by no means complete, but residents who know this city's history say there have been changes.

"I think this city has made a 180-degree turn," said Franklin Macon, grandson of Charles Banks and a Springs native. "No matter what people say, it's gotten so much better."

TWIN BROTHERS CHARGED WITH CONSPIRING TO INCITE RACE WAR

RICHMOND, VA. (AP).—A grand jury has indicted twin brothers on charges of conspiring to incite a race war between black's and whites.

Kevin and Calvin Hill, who allegedly belong to a white supremacist group, were in-

dicted Monday in the Richmond suburb of Henrico County on charges of "conspiracy to incite one race to insurrection against the other race." They were released on bond pending a March 25 hearing in Circuit Court.

The brothers, 28, were indicted twice earlier this year—on Feb. 4 and Feb. 25—on various drug distribution and conspiracy charges. They also face an abduction charge.

The brothers "prominently displayed Nazi paraphernalia" and "read passages from their white supremacy 'Bible'" to people who came to them to buy marijuana, according to a search warrant affidavit filed in the case.

Court papers indicated the brothers possessed a document that "described and espoused the burning of synagogues and violence against people based upon race or religion."

Police found numerous items related to the white supremacy movement in searches of the brothers' residences in Henrico County and Bluefield, W.Va., court records indicate.

The items included Nazi flags, posters of Adolf Hitler, clothing with Nazi slogans, World War II Nazi paraphernalia, applications to join the Ku Klux Klan and pamphlets containing racist slogans, the records indicate.

Police believe the Hill brothers moved to the Richmond area from West Virginia shortly before 1995.

The organization that the man allegedly belong to was identified in the court documents as "Christian Identity."

Among several other suspects who were indicted on drug charges related to the Hills was Sylvester J. Carrington, 27, of Chesterfield County. Police said the brothers recruited Carrington, who is black, as a drug supplier.

"Basically it was just a money thing," said narcotics investigator Michael J. Barron. ". . . They didn't care for him too much, but it was business."

Police seized about 5 pounds of marijuana, 25 to 50 doses of LSD, more than 20 drug pipes, several knives, 15 guns, ammunition and military flak jackets in the Richmond area and West Virginia. The weapons included .30-.30 rifles with scopes, AR-15 assault-style rifles and Tec 9 semiautomatic pistols.

Police said the 2-year investigation is ongoing.

BLACK AG DEPARTMENT MANAGERS PURSUE DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

WASHINGTON (AP).—Black managers working for the Agriculture Department are moving forward with a complaint that accuses the agency of denying them promotions.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has scheduled an April 12 hearing on the class action complaint, which alleges that more than 300 black managers at the department's Farm Service Agency were discriminated against.

The Farm Service Agency, which administers loans and credit, also had been cited by black farmers in a lawsuit that resulted in a multimillion-dollar settlement—currently under review by a federal judge.

"It's not surprising that the Farm Service Agency was discriminating against the black farmers when they have for years systematically excluded African-Americans from policy-making positions in the upper levels of agency management," said lead attorney Joseph D. Gebhardt.

The complaint, which was filed in February 1997, requests a promotion for each member of the class along with appropriate back pay and benefits.

Tom Amontree, a spokesman for Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, said the

agency has been "aggressively dealing with the backlog of employee civil rights complaints." In the past two years, the agency has resolved three-fourths of such outstanding complaints, he said.

"Secretary Glickman will not tolerate acts of discrimination at this department," Amontree said. "Anyone found doing so will be dealt with appropriately."

The action before the EEOC is just one of two under way by black department employees. Another group is meeting with attorneys to pursue a complaint on behalf of all black employees within the agency, organizers said.

"Obviously the only thing the department is going to respond to is across-the-board action," said Lawrence Lucas, president of the USDA Coalition of Minority Employees and an organizer of the effort. "Employees who have been in the system and seen the discrimination have decided the only way they can get to the systemic nature and the culture of racism is through a class action."

REMEMBERING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives RADANOVICH and BONIOR for their work to introduce a resolution this week to ensure that this nation continues to play an active role in protecting the memory of the Armenian Genocide that began 85 years ago. As we so unfortunately see again in Kosovo today, documenting the horrors of genocide—or "ethnic cleansing" as it is called in some circles—is vital if we are to ever stop such actions from occurring.

The resolution that is being introduced calls upon the President to collect and house all relevant U.S. records relating to the Armenian Genocide and provide them to Congress, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan, Armenia. It is necessary to do this because there are many who live in denial. Sadly, the Government of Turkey continues to deny what occurred at the beginning of this century, just as there are too many people who still deny the Jewish Holocaust where six million people were killed. Two million Cambodians were killed in the 1970s–1980s by Pol Pot and his communist thugs and ideologues. Even now in the Balkans there must be solid evidence of violence against the innocent civilians for no other reason than their ethnic identification.

No one can take for granted the unexplainable ability of some people to look clearly at facts and still deny its very existence. Each year, Members of Congress join the world commemoration of the Armenian Genocide because it must not be forgotten. Time, distance, and current events frequently cloud the past and can reduce horrific events to little more than a footnote in history. The Armenian Genocide is not a footnote. More than 1.5 million Armenians were killed and the Genocide left deep scars upon those who survived. Those survivors carried their memories with them to my home state of California and the many other places they settled. Still, memories cannot fight those who would deny this tragedy.

Documenting the horrors of the Genocide cannot stop those who would deny it, any more than the extensive documentation of the Holocaust have stopped individuals from denying that abominable period. However, we cannot begin the fight against ignorance if we do not preserve the record of these crimes. The Armenian Genocide marked the beginning of a barbaric practice in the Twentieth Century. By remembering it we can help prevent future actions and punish the guilty in the future.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IS LONG OVERDUE—THE SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES URGES ACTION TO STRENGTHEN OUR DEMOCRACY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, no issue affects the future of our democratic political system to a greater extent than does campaign finance reform. The infusion of unregulated dollars to political parties and officeholders has reached record levels in the past few years, making elections more and more the province of wealthy candidates and special interests. This development can only serve to increase cynicism and limit political participation among our nation's individual citizens. I strongly believe that we have a civic duty to take action to reverse this dangerous trend.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of H.R. 417, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 1999. I have also signed the discharge petition now pending before the House, in order to bring this important legislation up for consideration despite the opposition of some of the leaders of this body. This legislation, known popularly as the Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform bill, unites a broad coalition of Democrats and Republicans who share the conviction that we must act firmly and swiftly to prevent elections from becoming out-of-control auctions.

H.R. 417 would ban unregulated "soft money" contributions to national and state political parties, abolishing once and for all this unfortunate loophole. It would also impose restrictions on the broadcast of so-called "independent expenditure" issue ads by third-parties, add requirements for the full disclosure of campaign contributions, limit political party assistance to wealthy candidates who spend millions of dollars of their own personal fortunes on political campaigns, and institute several other vital improvements to our method of electing congressional officeholders.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and in signing the discharge petition that is necessary to bring it before the House of Representatives.

On April 16, 1999, the highly-respected San Mateo County Times newspaper in San Mateo, California, published a thoughtful editorial on this important issue entitled "Campaign Finance Reform Is Long Overdue." Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to read this excellent editorial and consider the consequences of failing to defend the integrity of our system of campaigns and elections. I ask that this editorial be placed in the RECORD.

[From the San Mateo County Times, Apr. 16, 1999]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IS LONG OVERDUE

The majority of Americans favors campaign finance reform, which remains a crucial issue even if its breathing often labored. Paradoxically, few legislators appear to like reform well enough to see it through to passage. And some large corporations, which endorse the need for reform, still play by the old rules.

Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., promised to work in a bipartisan manner on issue of concern to the average American, but he has told the press that campaign finance reform is not a legislative priority. The House will concentrate instead on what he calls the "really important issues," including Social Security, health care, tax policy and education. These are undoubtedly key issues on the legislative agenda, but the back-burner approach to the bipartisan Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform bill is irritating the American public.

"The Washington influence money game will continue and will distort the legislative policy on these very issues," reports Common Cause, which lobbies for tighter campaign finance rules. "The Speaker's failure to understand the need for reform as a prerequisite to congressional action on these important issues is to deny how Washington really works."

The passage of Shays-Meehan would mean the end of the corrupt soft-money system that permits wealthy individuals, labor unions and corporations to give millions of dollars in unregulated campaign contributions to the political parties to buy influence and access in Congress and the White House. The bill would also require special-interest groups to pay for campaign advertisements masquerading as impartial "issue discussions" with money raised according to federal campaign finance laws.

A federal economic panel—composed of businessmen—recently released a report recommending that soft money should be outlawed. "The public cannot help but believe that these donors enjoy special influence and receive special favors," the report said. "The suspicion of corruption deepens public cynicism and diminishes public confidence in government. "More important, these activities raise the likelihood of actual corruption."

The panel co-chairman, who is also the chairman and chief executive of his firm, concluded at a news conference. "Bad government is bad business." He later told a reporter: "Until I understood the depth of the problem, I was like a lot of Americans: I don't think I cared too much." This executive's accounting and consulting firm, as reported in The New York Times, was quick to repudiate its own leader by issuing a statement saying the chairman's opinions were "his personal views and do not necessarily represent the views" of his company.

A review of Election Commission records shows that three large American corporations, which announced they would swear off soft money donations in 1997, have fallen off the wagon. Only the Monsanto Company, which donated \$75,000 in 1995 and '96, has given no soft money since then.

Speaker Hastert has failed to schedule Shays-Meehan for floor action this spring despite the passage of an earlier bill in the House. A later filibuster in the Senate killed it. We urge prompt attention and passage of Shays-Meehan as we have urged in the past. A campaign finance reform law is needed right now.

Why must the public always assume the obligation to wake up its own elected officials?

APRIL IS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, we've all heard it said that "when you've got your health, you've got everything," we also know how hard it is to stay healthy as we get older. One profession that helps people deal with the problems of aging is occupational therapy. Because April is Occupational Therapy Month, I would like to recognize the many fine practitioners of this field of health care who live and work in my district and across the nation.

Occupational therapy helps people recover their "skills for the job of living" so they can have independent, fulfilling lives. It's the occupational therapist who shows those afflicted with arthritis new techniques of how to shop and care for their homes and gardens in order to continue the life to which they are accustomed.

It is the occupational therapist who shows those afflicted by a stroke how to dress and bathe and hold a cup again, even though limited in strength, in order to care for their own needs, instead of having to rely on others for the basic necessities of daily life.

The proven efficacy of occupational therapy as a health treatment for older persons has recently been documented in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Millions more Americans will personally be made aware of the invaluable role that occupational therapists play in their own lives when the huge baby boom generation begins to retire in the next 10 years. It is estimated that there will be more Americans over age 85 than under 5!

I salute the many dedicated occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants for the fine jobs they do each and every day in helping older Americans live more productive and rewarding lives.

LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE MILITARY AIRFIELD SAFETY

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I introduced legislation to authorize the U.S. military to test and evaluate Mobile Expeditionary Accurate Night Vision Compatible Portable Airfield Lighting Systems (MEANPALS). This legislation will allow all branches of the U.S. military to benefit from enhanced vision technologies, which have a proven track record of dramatically improving airfield visibility under any weather conditions.

MEANPALS is a mobile airfield lighting system that provides all the necessary elements to establish a 10,000 foot runway on improved or unimproved airfield landing sites. It utilizes enhanced vision technologies, including laser guidance systems. It provides accurate runway centerline lineup cues along with glide-path lineup information during landing approach to the airfield. My bill authorizes \$1.3 million for the U.S. Army to research, develop, test, and evaluate two MEANPALS at one location that serves both fixed wing and rotor