



**QUASQUICENTENNIAL SUFFRAGE CELEBRATION
SOUTHERN COLORADO**

THEY PERSISTED

By
Judy E. Gaughan
and the
Women's Suffrage Centennial Southern Colorado
with special assistance from
Victoria Marquesen, Jackie Stroud, Kathrine Thomson,
Kathy DeHererra, Leticia Steffen, Sheila D'Amico

First Produced, November 7, 2018



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ACT I: 1868-1877, Early attempts to include Women
ACT II: Nevertheless, She Persisted, The Colorado Chieftain, 1877-1892
ACT III: 1893 Supporters & Detractors, Southern Colorado Newspapers speak
EPILOGUE: 1894-1895 Women Celebrate then get back to Work

Production Notes

Content:

This show was written using literal excerpts from Southern Colorado newspapers between 1876 and 1893. Very little liberty was taken with the language of the newspapers so most of the words the characters of the newspapers speak are word-for-word what the newspapers actually said. Most of the editing was for the sake of brevity. In Act III, a small amount of liberty was taken in putting the language from one newspaper into a different newspaper. If you are interested in looking at the originals from which this script is largely derived, please visit the research section of our webpage (<http://womensuffragecentennial.southerncolorado.org>). The source used to find these newspapers was the searchable database available at <https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>. The main search term used was “suffrage.”

In addition to the newspapers, primary source material from the *Queen Bee* Collection in the Denver Public Library Central Branch was used. That includes the poem from the epilogue and some of the words put in the mouths of 19th century suffragists. Some additional language put into the mouths of the suffragists in this play comes from the article, “The Other Side of the Woman Question,” by Julia Ward Howe, Lucy Stone, Tomas Wentworth Higginson, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Wendell Phillips, published in the *North American Review of Books*, volume 129, number 276) in November of 1879 (on pages 413-446). The newspapers often did not give details about what the suffragists said in their speeches so the Colorado suffragists’ voices were enhanced with arguments we know were being made at the same time by other suffragists.

About the Authors:

The Women Suffrage Centennial Southern Colorado is a group formed in February, 2018 to commemorate 125 years of Colorado Women’s Suffrage and to celebrate the centennial of National woman’s suffrage in 2020.

Judy E. Gaughan, professor of History at Colorado State University-Pueblo wrote the script with the assistance of other members of the Women Suffrage Centennial Southern Colorado. Dr. Gaughan’s main field of emphasis is ancient Roman History. She is the author of *Murder was not a Crime: Homicide and Power in the Roman Republic*. In addition to her interest in antiquity, she is dedicated to equality for all women and created this script in celebration of women’s achievements and dedication to the pursuit of justice.

Production:

This show was produced for the first time on November 7, 2018 in the Ryals Room of Rawlings Library, the main branch of the Pueblo City and County Library District. This date was 125 years to the day after the majority of Colorado voters (men) voted in favor of a state-wide woman’s suffrage amendment to the constitution. The directions in the script, as well as some of its content, is suited to that venue.

You are welcome to produce the play as is or to adapt it to your own venue. If you are a Southern Coloradan, we recommend that you investigate archives for your own town’s newspaper(s) and replace or supplement the content of Act II to reflect your own paper’s reports on women’s suffrage.

If you do produce the play, we would love to hear about it. Please jot us an email at wscsco@gmail.com and let us know how it went.

ACT ONE: 1868-1877

CAST:

Jessie Haver Butler.....
Territorial Gov. Evans.....
Territorial Gov. McCook.....
Mrs. Campbell.....
Mrs. Shields.....
1 Chieftain.....
2 Chieftain.....
3 Chieftain.....
Spanish Speaker
Spanish Translator.....
Manifold.....
A San Juan Woman

[On stage: Jessie and the two Governors]

Jessie: Good evening, my name is Jessie Haver Butler. The Women’s Suffrage Centennial Southern Colorado group invited me here today to tell you the early story of Suffrage in Southern Colorado. They asked me to be the link from the story you will hear today to the story of National Woman Suffrage in 1920.

They asked me here because I was born right here in Pueblo on a dairy farm about half a mile away in the year 1886 – before women in this state got the vote. That story of women getting the vote is going to be a big part of my life. So I’m going to tell you what I know about this first great success and how much persistence was needed to make it happen. We start in 1868.

[Governor Evans steps up.]

Why here’s our second territorial governor, Dr. John Evans. Hello, Governor.

Territorial Governor Dr. John Evans: It’s high time we allow women in this glorious territory to vote.

[While Jessie speaks, Exit John Evans; Governor McCook steps up]

Jessie: It didn’t work out, though. Women did not get the vote in 1868. On January 3, 1870, the new territorial governor, General Edward McCook tried again.

Territorial Governor General Edward McCook: *[to legislators]* I would like you legislators to give some consideration before the close of session to the issue of woman’s suffrage. It rests with you to say whether Colorado will accept this reform in its first stage, as our sister territory of Wyoming has done, or in the last; whether she will be a leader in the movement or a follower.

Jessie: It didn't work out, though. Women did not get the vote in Colorado in 1870.

[Mrs Campbell enters while the Chieftain speaks]

1 Chieftain: *[stands in audience]* Colorado Daily Chieftain, Pueblo, Colorado, January 30, 1876. It would seem that the worthy ladies who have been laboring so earnestly with our constitution-makers in order to impress their minds with the idea that female suffrage was the great, all absorbing need of Colorado, have withdrawn their forces and are now patiently watching the result.

The arguments urged in support of woman suffrage may be true to a certain degree, and would doubtless be productive of much good if put in actual practice, but at the same time the impression seems to prevail, that female suffrage can wait a few years, or at least until other and more important questions are determined.

Jessie: Why, Mrs. Campbell, welcome to Pueblo.

Mrs. Campbell: You see what we suffragists have to put up with, Jessie. It seems everything is always "more important" than women getting the right to vote.

2 Chieftain: *[stands in audience]* July 1876. A female lecturer visited Mace's Hole, her subject being female suffrage. A small audience, little pay and no conversion was the result. Should she ever return and lecture on the science of bread baking, I ensure her better success.

Mrs. Campbell: Hmpph!

3 Chieftain: September 1, 1876. Mrs. Campbell, an advocate of woman's suffrage, will deliver a free lecture in Pueblo, this Friday evening, September 1st. She is said to be a very intelligent lady and a fine speaker.

Mrs. Campbell: Now that's better. *[to the audience]* Women are half of the population. We deserve the right to represent ourselves at the polls. The slaveholder was formerly supposed, by a legal fiction, to represent his slaves. By a similar fiction, men are held to represent women at the polls. The slaveholders represented themselves, and men, voting, do the same. Why should one sex assume to legislate for both? Because one sex has stronger muscles? It does not use these muscles for voting.

Jessie: Despite the arguments women like Mrs. Campbell made in speeches around Southern Colorado, the notion published by the Chieftain in 1876 won the day. *[sarcastically]* "More important questions!" took precedence. The drafters of the Colorado territorial constitution said they were afraid that they would fail to achieve statehood if the constitution gave women the right to vote.

The constitution, however, did provide that, and I quote: "the general assembly shall at the first session thereof and may at any subsequent session enact laws to extend the right of suffrage to women." So while women did not get the vote when

Colorado became a state in 1876. There would be a vote on woman's suffrage in 1877.

Women who could afford it spent their time and resources traveling across Colorado to speak in favor of women getting the vote.

Mrs. Campbell: [to Jessie] Do you know my friend, Mrs. Shields? She lives in Colorado Springs and travels all across Southern Colorado to speak of Suffrage. Why here she is in Trinidad:

In Trinidad

Mrs. Shields: [*modest and unassuming*] The argument that women should not vote because they cannot fight is a weak argument. What real connection is there between the act of fighting and the act of voting? Also, only a small percentage of men actually fight in wars. It is not obedience to a commanding officer that makes a good voter, it is the spirit of inquiry that a voter uses when studying the claims and merits of the candidates for office.

Spanish-Speaker: Please, Mrs. Shields. Will you stay until we can get a Spanish translator to translate what you are saying?

Mrs. Shields: [*nods*]
[*enter Translator*]

Mrs. Shields: There must be over one hundred people here!

Translator: ¡Tiene que haber más de cien personas aquí!

Mrs. Shields: If you support women's right to vote, you will help make the government more pure. Women are caretakers of the house and they are virtuous. They will improve the morality of the government.

Translator: Su ustedes apoyan el derecho de la mujer al voto, ayudarán a hacer el gobierno más puro. Las mujeres son las que cuidan la casa y son virtuosas. Ellas mejorarán la moralidad en el gobierno.

1 Chieftain, Chieftain, Pueblo, Colorado, March 20, 1877: Mrs. Shields of Colorado Springs lectured on woman suffrage last night in the Methodist church to a good audience composed mostly of ladies. As the question discussed is of little interest to our readers and of none whatever to ourselves we refrain from details.

[*Manifold and A San Juan Woman enter while Jessie speaks*]

Jessie: Those women in 1877 worked hard to get that suffrage bill passed. And they had help. All eyes were turned toward Colorado. Would Colorado state, like Wyoming territory, give women the right to vote? People of Southern Colorado came out to

hear the women speak. The listeners sure brought their biases to suffrage meetings, though.

In August, a few months before the 1877 vote, *The Chieftain*, published an account of suffrage activities by one “Manifold” from Del Norte.

[Jessie recedes to background]

Manifold: *[Stands, clears his throat, . . . , king at the audience, he begins . . .]* “Suffrage is a topic which is forced upon the attention of the people of Southwestern Colorado . . .

2 Chieftain: To oblige a lady, we publish a communication on the subject of woman suffrage in our issue to-day. We have no sympathy whatever with the movement and are of the opinion that nine tenths of our readers are in the same position. Nevertheless, here is “A San Juan Woman,” giving her response to Manifold:

A San Juan Woman: *[with a determined look on her face, and a determined voice reads]* Manifold says the topic is forced upon Southern Coloradans. If bringing it before the people by public speaking, distributing documents, or in any other legitimate way is forcing it upon the public, why Abraham Lincoln's abolition of slavery, and every other question of national interest that has ever come to us, has been forced upon the people!

Manifold: . . . and the discussion is rather one-sided. That is, the advocates of woman suffrage are doing most all the talking.

A San Juan Woman: If the ‘Suffragists are doing all the talking,’ it is because there are no good arguments against suffrage.

Manifold: Mrs. Margaret W. Campbell, accompanied by her husband, is making a tour of important towns, giving lectures, distributing documents, and soliciting funds to conduct the approaching canvass, but, it has been impossible to stir up any excitement.

A San Juan Woman: This is untrue. Mrs. Campbell and her husband came to learn the country and to organize committees; to find people who could distribute tracts at every ranch and mountain gulch; to set the people thinking. This they are doing with a tireless energy that commends warm admiration.

Manifold: In Lake county the meetings were a failure.

A San Juan Woman: At Lake City no finer audience was ever assembled than that which gathered to hear Mrs. Campbell. There was not sitting room in the court house for all, and many stood throughout the lecture.

Manifold: At Saguache, the meeting was a small one, and the following sentiment was strongly expressed—“We shall vote against the proposition because our wives and

sisters do not wish to vote: they are opposed to the measure and we shall act in unison with their wishes.”

A San Juan Woman: The closest attention was given to every word, and when the tracts were distributed, men would rise by dozens and reach for one lest he should be left out.

Manifold: At Del Norte, a place rated at 1500 inhabitants, only 27 adults, by actual count, attended the lecture, and 9 of these were strangers. No excuse could be made, as there was no other meeting being held, and notice had been given for two days previous.

A San Juan Woman: It is true that the audience at Del Norte was small, though I am told by a lady present that there were 100 of the best people in the town there. Yet the lecture was given and an interest awakened.

Manifold: Mrs. Campbell journeyed to Conejos to try to secure the co-operation of Lieutenant-Governor Head in influencing the Mexican vote of Conejos, Costilla and other counties. It has not transpired what success she had, but judging from past political experiences, it could not have been flattering.

A San Juan Woman: Down in the Mexican settlement it was whispered “You pay for drinks, you get many votes.” But imagine Mrs. Campbell carrying a keg of beer and a bottle of whisky on her burro or standing at a bar dealing out liquor to buy Mexican votes! Why Manifold himself, with his strict temperance principles, would look more at home.”

Jessie: Yes, I’m afraid the racism of the day rears its ugly head in the suffrage movement as it does in all other political discussions but Colorado suffragists approached men and women of many races and classes in their pursuit of equal voting privileges with men.

Manifold: From Del Norte they journeyed across the range to interview the miners of the Western slope.

A San Juan Woman: At Eureka, Howardsville, and Silverton, nearly every person in the camp turned out. A prominent man of San Juan told Mrs. Campbell that he was doing all he could to help the cause, and that he had 25 men in his employ on whom he could depend for favorable votes.

Manifold: Judging from the expressions of leading and influential ladies throughout the San Juan country, the vote will be decidedly opposed to the ‘Question of the hour.’

A San Juan Woman: [*aside to audience*] He knows this from their expressions?

Manifold: Women in the San Juan country are so few as compared with the men, that their wishes are deferred to, their opinions consulted, and their influence is paramount. Nowhere in the world could there be more chivalrous devotion to ladies. So, if the

ladies desired it to pass, then there would be a decided majority in favor of the amendment.

A San Juan Woman: Remember, gentlemen, there is no chivalry in giving ladies their wishes only when they happen to coincide with your own. The truly chivalrous man will lay aside his prejudice to grant simple justice to women.

[*They stare at each other for a brief time, Jessie steps up between them and Manifold and A San Juan Woman exeunt.*]

Jessie: The Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association would later report that it expended \$1,000 and distributed 15,000 tracts in Colorado.

3 Chieftain: September 1, We have received a letter from the Woman Suffrage Association of Colorado, which has its headquarters at Denver, stating that Mrs. Lucy Stone and Mr. H. B. Blackwell of Boston, will address the people of Pueblo on September 4th, upon the question of equal suffrage.

Mrs. Stone is one of the earliest advocates of female suffrage in America and as a speaker on this subject has few equals and no superiors. Her lecture will no doubt be an exceedingly interesting one, and we have no doubt will draw a large audience, not only of those who are friendly to the movement, but others who desire to hear both sides of the question and give the matter a fair and impartial consideration.

Jessie: As the vote drew closer, the *Chieftain's* warnings grew dire. One tactic of the anti-suffrage folks was to try to pit suffragists against each other. You women of some wealth and education need to be afraid of women who might vote who have no money.

1 Chieftain: September 6. Let the thinking voter take a look at the situation at home, here in Southern Colorado. Perhaps one-sixth of our female population are intelligent women who can read and write and understand the political questions of the day. What are the remainder? Would this class of female voters "elevate the polls?" We think not. Few of the respectable portion of the female voters would turn out on election day, but, rest assured, the other kind would be on hand on all occasions and for any purpose no matter how venal or corrupt.

Jessie: Many of the men in Colorado seem to have agreed with the *Chieftain*. After all those eastern powerhouses like Susan B. Anthony and Lucy Stone and Henry Blackwell and all those local women like Mary Shields and Margaret Campbell spoke so passionately about how just it was for women to have the right to vote, the male voting population of the state in 1877 voted against women getting the vote: 6,612 in favor; 14,053 against.

Audience: BOO

ACT II: The Colorado Chieftain 1877-1892

Jessie Haver Butler.....
Cheiftain 1878.....
Cheiftain 1879.....
Cheiftain 1880.....
Cheiftain 1881.....
Cheiftain 1882.....
Cheiftain 1883.....
Cheiftain 1884.....
Cheiftain 1885.....
Cheiftain 1886.....
Cheiftain 1887 (supporters)
Cheiftain 1887 (detractors)
Cheiftain 1888.....
Cheiftain 1889.....
Cheiftain 1890.....
Cheiftain 1891.....
Cheiftain 1892.....

[Chieftains enter read their lines and then exit. While the previous year exits, the next year reads. At start of Act, Jessie and 1878 are already on stage]

Jessie: In this Act, the Pueblo Chieftain serves as our window into events between the two main attempts for suffrage in Colorado: the unsuccessful one in 1877 and the successful one in 1893. As we listen to the Chieftain speak for those years, notice how the suffragists persevered.

1878: 1878 January. The female suffrage nuisance is being again stirred up in Denver. Isn't the smallpox enough of a plague throughout the state without the woman nuisance? Oh! Lord, how long?"

June. There will be a distinguished hen convention held at Denver next month, under the management of a few of those bantam chicken cocks that flop and crow on all such occasions. The object of the convention is to secure to our political parties, nominees for state offices who are known to be in favor of women's suffrage.

1879: 1879 February. Female suffrage is an uneasy spirit which will haunt our legislature from year to year in spite of the efforts of the people to quiet it.

Senate bill No. 111 provides that the question of female suffrage shall again be submitted to the people. At this late hour of the session, however, the bill stands but little chance of passing. There appears to be a strong opposition to it in the senate and the house has matters of importance before it. We would suggest that the authorities have the gentleman who introduced this bill prosecuted for maintaining a nuisance.

Jessie: *[from the side/back]* In the meantime, the women working for suffrage on the national level did not let up but petitioned congress and approached all of the political parties at their conventions to promote universal suffrage. They never let up. Or, in the words of the Chieftain...

1880: 1880, January. The female suffrage tramps are attempting to bulldoze congress. The Hens are cackling.

Jessie: 1880. That's the year my mama moved to Pueblo. Had I been born yet, I would have taken offense at the Chieftain's words.

1881: 1881, January. The most foolish thing the Colorado legislature has been guilty of this session was the action of that body on reconsidering the woman suffrage question. Those who advocate this ruinous privilege for women are not fit to vote, and the respectable women in Colorado, we have great cause to be thankful, do not want such a privilege.

Jessie: An attempt to introduce a new suffrage bill in the Colorado General Assembly failed because it was not introduced in time. And next year, the Chieftain's attitude continues. Note the contradiction when the paper claims no Colorado women wanted suffrage and then ridiculed Colorado women who wanted suffrage.

1882: 1882, March. It will be quite time enough to give the privilege of suffrage to women, when the women themselves ask for it. The cry raised by a few persons in their name is a false cry. It is a bold and brazen lie, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever it is made to take the form of a statement that the women of Colorado ever asked for or ever wished for the ballot. Not one wife or mother in a thousand ever attends the shrieking matches of the scolding sisters which are held at various intervals. The fact is beyond dispute, and yet the shouting sisterhood perambulate the state and prostitute pulpits and the press with the preposterous pretences that the women of our state feel themselves oppressed because they cannot vote at elections.

1883: 1883, October. The legislature of Washington territory passed a bill in favor of women's suffrage. The vote stood fourteen to seven. The result of the vote caused much excitement among friends of woman's suffrage.

Jessie: Oh, my sister suffragists, all were excited for a brief moment, but Washington Territory's supreme court claimed the law was unconstitutional. That happened twice, but still those women persisted.

One of the movements of the late 19th century that probably helped the eventual passage of woman's suffrage in Colorado was the temperance movement. Temperance supporters wanted to improve the moral compass of the country by making the sale of alcohol illegal.

1884: 1884, September. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (known as the W.C.T.U.) for the state of Colorado met in its fifth annual convention in this city. The members of the local union are making all possible endeavors for the comfort of their guests, and for the success of the convention, which promises to be an interesting and well conducted meeting. The Pueblo union is only a year old, but is well organized, and its members consider themselves complimented by the selection of this city for the convention. Yesterday afternoon a meeting of the state executive committee was held at the Fifth Avenue hotel. Mrs. Shields, of Colorado Springs, president of the state organization, presided.

Jessie: Note how the temperance supporters call upon women voters in the one venue where they have the vote:

1885: 1885, April. Letter to the Editor. The women of the Pueblos have the unquestioned right of suffrage at the school election, and many no doubt will avail themselves of the privilege. See to it, however, that your candidates are in favor of scientific instruction in the schools, on the effects of alcohol. This will be a preventive of much injustice and much suffering.

Jessie: The *Chieftain* published lots of commentary about how women in Southern Colorado did not want the vote, but then that newspaper had to report the news. You see, women in the state of Colorado, by virtue of the original constitution, did have the right to vote but only in school elections.

1885: 1885, May. There was considerable excitement over the school election in this district until it was learned there was no opposition to the regular ticket placed in the field, but neither the knowledge of this fact nor the stormy weather kept the ladies from turning out in large numbers and taking advantage of their right of suffrage. The result is gratifying especially to the ladies who took part, all of whom evinced great interest and feel a corresponding pride in the result.

November. Miss Belva Lockwood, late candidate for president of the United States on the equal suffrage ticket, and who received four votes for that office in Colorado, will lecture at Pueblo opera house Saturday night. She is an excellent speaker and should be listened to by a large audience.

1886: 1886 Montpelier, Vermont, November 3.—The house of representatives today passed a bill granting suffrage to women, by 135 to 82.

Jessie: By the way 1886 is the year I was born. When I was in my first year on this planet, the movement in favor of woman's suffrage was making advances and meeting with setbacks. Every effort reported in the press, whether it was successful or not, is a sign of perseverance on the part of the suffragists.

[*at a healthy pace*]

1887 (anti): The supreme court of the territory of Washington said that a law that granted woman suffrage was unconstitutional.

1887 (pro): A law has just gone into operation in Ohio which gives to wives the same control over their own property that husbands have over theirs.

1887 (anti): The Massachusetts house, by a vote of 97 to 61, defeated the woman suffrage resolution.

1887 (pro): The senate of Pennsylvania today finally passed a joint resolution proposing a woman's suffrage constitutional amendment. The ladies' gallery was crowded during the vote.

1887 (anti): In the house of representatives in Michigan, a bill granting to women the right to vote in municipal elections was defeated.

1887 (pro): In some cities and towns in Kansas, the women availed themselves of their newly acquired privilege of voting in municipal elections. The effect of the experiment cannot be divined as yet. At some points the women were elected to membership on school boards.

A speaker before a mass meeting of Indianapolis workingmen predicted that "humanity as a whole, not humanity as a half, would before many decades solve the problem of humanity."

1887 (anti): Washington D.C., in the U.S. Senate:

1887 (pro): Senator Blair moved to take up the proposed woman suffrage constitutional amendment: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States, or by any state, on account of sex. Congress shall have power by appropriate legislation to enforce the provisions of this article."

1887 (anti): Senator Brown said that woman now exercises an imperceptible influence in public affairs, much greater than she could if she could actually vote.

1887 (pro): Senator Dolph said the resolution might not pass, but the time was not far distant when in every state and territory, woman would be admitted to an equal voice in government. No measure involving such radical changes in society had made such great progress as the woman's suffrage movement.

Jessie: Hey 1887, what was happening locally?

[*pause*] back in Pueblo

1887 (anti): There is nothing just now that would prove a better advertisement for Pueblo, than to have our business streets lighted by electricity.

Jessie: Hey 1887, I meant what's going on with the woman suffrage issue?

1887 (anti): Oh, and... One of the largest audiences that ever gathered to hear a lecture by a local orator was addressed this Thursday evening by Rev. Belk, of Methodist Church South. His speech abounded in original thoughts presented in beautiful language and contained a fine eulogy upon women, her sphere and influence. He said that woman's influence is best exerted, and with the best result, elsewhere than at the ballot box. In other words. Mr. Belk believes that "woman's rights" and "woman's suffrage" are two different things and that woman does not need suffrage to obtain her rights.

[1887s *exceunt*]

Jessie: Thank you, 1887. One of the arguments that keeps coming up again is based on the ridiculous idea that unless every woman wants to vote none of them should.

1888: 1888, March. Of the 15,000,000 women of America it is claimed that about 2,000,000 have declared themselves in favor of woman suffrage. Since the other 13,000,000 have not expressed themselves on the subject, it is doubtful if the sex should be considered as friendly to the proposition until a more emphatic and a more general demand is made.

August. Mrs. Lillie Devereaux Blake was greeted by the finest audience that ever turned out to hear a lecture in Pueblo. The audience was filled by well-dressed ladies and attentive men, who had come to hear the woman suffrage question discussed by one of the most able exponents of the doctrine in this country. It would be useless for us to attempt even a synopsis of Mrs. Blake's masterly lecture. The hearty applause which greeted the telling points of her address showed conclusively that the logic of her statements was admitted by a majority of those present, and even the doubting Thomases did not feel inclined to object.

Jessie: The *Chieftain* refused to publish the arguments made by Ms Devereaux Blake: "It would be useless for us to attempt even a synopsis." And yet, around this time a section started appearing in the *Chieftain* called "Woman's World." The original publication had a more positive opinion of women's rights than the *Chieftain* itself appeared to have, so Pueblo readership got a view of both sides of the question.

1889: 1889. Everywhere, except in some parts of eastern Washington and South Dakota, the masculine voters jumped on the amendment with both feet, to use a bit of vigorous slang. It is evident that the west is not sufficiently "cultured" to believe that women would purify the polls.

Jessie: Another favorite argument of the anti-suffragists was that women do not want the responsibilities of citizenship, only its benefits.

1890: 1890. February. The question of woman suffrage is beginning to be agitated in the columns of the local press. It is hardly to be presumed that female citizens would prove a success when called upon to act on a sheriff's posse, serve as soldiers in case of rebellion or invasion, or sit two or three weeks on a jury in a murder trial, while their families suffered at home and "hubby" had a high old time nights with the boys.

[*pause*]

July. Letter to the Editor. To My Sister Women of Pueblo: All who are interested in the reforms that are agitating the public mind, industrial, social and political; all who are interested in temperance, suffrage, abolition of child labor, enforcement of education, shorter hours, better wages, elevation of the human family, are cordially invited to attend the meeting which I will address in the trades assembly room, new city hall,

Jessie: The Chieftain liked to bring our attention back to 1877 to convince us that woman's suffrage was not wanted in Colorado.

1891: 1891 February. It is not a great many years since the question of a constitutional provision conferring the right of suffrage upon women was submitted to a vote of the people of the state. For several months previous to that election, Colorado was overrun by a horde of loose tongued female suffrage tramps of both sexes from the New England states. The people of Colorado repudiated the whole matter by a large majority and if the question were submitted to them again would in all probability repeat the operation.

Jessie: Of course, not all women were in agreement. A person signing a letter to the editor "A Woman at Home" wrote the following:

1892: February. I think when a woman thinks of voting she had better pick up her work basket and look over her husband's socks and see if they do not want darning, for I know they do if she has got time to talk politics, and while she talks politics she lets her dinner burn, and then she gets a lecture on neglecting home duties from her husband, and he is compelled to go to a saloon to get him a lunch and he takes a drink at the same time, all on account of woman's suffrage.

[*pause*]

November: Football among the school boys of Pueblo has probably come to stay, judging from the interest taken yesterday afternoon in the first annual game between the elevens of Centennial and Central high schools at the Minnequa ball park.

December. Letter to the Editor. We used to ask for suffrage because women needed it as the means to larger opportunities. But the aspect of the woman question has changed. Women are now saying, as in the days of the war, "The country needs us."

ACT III 1893

ACT III CAST:

Jessie Haver Butler.....
Ellis Meredith
Susan B. Anthony.....

Newspapers:

[Pueblo] Chieftain.....in Pueblo County.....
Walsenberg World.....in Huerfano County
Silver Cliff Rustler.....in Custer County
Standard.....in San Juan County
Lamar Register.....in Kiowa County
Pagosa Springs News.....in Archuleta County
Saguache Crescent.....in Saguache County
Mancos Times.....in Montezuma County
Rocky Ford Enterprise ...in Otero County
Creede Candlein Mineral County.....

[Half of the newspapers are seated in a row, the other half stands behind them.]

Jessie: We have come to that Watershed year, 1893. Women will get the vote in November, but that was nowhere near certain at the start of the year. Let’s see how the suffrage struggle played out in Southern Colorado Newspapers.

Lamar Register: Lamar Register. January. A lively debate sprung up in the House today over the woman suffrage bill.

Chieftain: Pueblo Chieftain. Mr. Herr said he voted against woman suffrage because he did not believe in dragging women into politics. He thought too much of his wife and sister to go home at night and argue political questions with them.

Mr. Bromley (Arapahoe) said the filth of politics would flow into the houses of the people.

On the other side, John T. Heath, a Populist from Montrose County and the father of the bill, said the house was not to decide whether or not woman should vote. The question was to go before the voters for their decision.

Mr. Carney, of Ouray, thought that in place of degrading the ladies it would elevate them.

Walsenburg World: Governor Waite at his inauguration said “About eight years ago a law was passed giving the women of Colorado the right to vote at school district elections. Since that time, the heavens have not fallen and the efficiency of the public schools has been greatly improved, so I recommend a law extending to the women of Colorado the right of suffrage at all municipal elections.”

Silver Cliff Rustler: Gov. Waite don't go far enough in wanting to give to women the right to vote in municipal elections, only. Let them vote in every election. Why would Governor Waite accord the right of suffrage to the women who live in cities and towns and not to those living in the country? Are not the farmer's wives and daughters as intelligent and respectable as their city sisters? Aren't they even more moral?

Lamar Register: February. The bill by Mr. Heath to submit to the voters of the state the question of woman's suffrage was taken up. Mr. Crowley presented a petition requesting that the house pass the female suffrage bill. It was signed by 6,045 people. A large number of ladies were present and heartily applauded the speeches which were made in favor of the bill.

Chieftain: Letter to the Editor: We cannot explain why women should not be locomotive engineers, except to repeat the refrain, "It is not natural; she was not fitted for it; it was not intended." The suffrage is very much such work as locomotive engineering. To ask woman to engage in it is a shameful perversion, for the suffrage is merely a physical duty devolving upon the head of the family, the same as sawing wood and shoveling coal and earning the family living. It can't be done, because it is not natural.

Pagosa Springs News: The bill to submit the question of woman suffrage to the voters of this state is about to become a law.

Chieftain: The bill reads:

[as one sentence]

Silver Cliff Rustler: Every female person shall be entitled to vote

Walsenberg World: at all elections, in the same manner in all respects

Lamar Register: as male persons are or shall be entitled to vote

Pagosa Springs News: by the constitution and laws of this state,

Saguache Crescent: and the same qualification as to age, citizenship, and time of residence

Mancos Times: in the state, county, city, ward and precinct

Rocky Ford Enterprise: and all other qualifications required by law

Creed Candle: to entitle male persons to vote

Silverton Standard: shall be required to entitle female persons to vote.

Jessie: I was 7 years old and my mother, Clara Rehwoldt Haver had joined the struggle. I remember vividly when the campaign for woman's suffrage was going on in Colorado, how she climbed into that spring wagon--I can see her yet doing it. Why she didn't take me along--that would have been a good thing to do.

It took some convincing to get those other eastern suffragists back out to Colorado after the disappointment in 1877. Those women had thought back in 1877 and still thought in 1893 that non-whites were in large part to blame for the failure of the vote but most Colorado suffragists had a different perspective. The Treasurer of the

Non-Partisan Colorado Equal Suffrage League itself was a Caribbean-born school teacher married to an African American man.

Ellis Meredith, Denver Newspaper woman and activist in the Colorado Equal Suffrage League was sent to Chicago in May to talk to the National League.

[in Chicago]

Ellis Meredith: Colorado has a woman's suffrage measure on the ballot.

Susan B. Anthony: Why was your campaign precipitated when our hands are so full? New York and Kansas need our attention! We have talked with no-one who feels the slightest hope of success in Colorado.

Ellis Meredith: Are you sure you have talked with anyone who understands the situation there?

Susan B. Anthony: Are all those Mexicans still opposed?

Ellis Meredith: You are mistaken in blaming them for the loss in 1877. Don't you know that Agapita Vigil, the Spanish-speaking state legislator from Huerfano county was a strong supporter of Woman Suffrage at our constitutional convention? Many forces were against us then. Furthermore, there are favorable influences now that did not exist then. Women vote in the labor unions and the Knights of Labor are supporting our cause.

Susan B. Anthony: Really?

Ellis Meredith: Also, the Women's Christian Temperance Union is now organized throughout the state and there are many suffragists among them.

Susan B. Anthony: Very well, we shall send Carrie Chapman out later to help organize the campaign in Colorado.

[pause]

Jessie: Ellis Meredith returned to Colorado and wrote newspaper articles in support of suffrage. Sometime later Carrie Chapman who would become first president of the League of Women Voters in 1920, came to Colorado to campaign. In the meantime, though, the pro-suffrage Coloradans got to work.

Chieftain: June. Mrs. Tyler, of Denver, addressed quite a gathering of women in the Board of Trade hall yesterday afternoon on the subject of better organization of women with regard to the suffrage movement. When she had finished her remarks a

Woman's Suffrage League auxiliary to the state league was formed with a charter membership of twelve.

Jessie: And the women of Pueblo got to work.

Chieftain: The members of the Woman Suffrage Association are thoroughly in earnest in the work and they will hold meetings at the Grand hotel once a week. Manager Schubert tendered them the free use of the ladies' reception rooms for that purpose.

Jessie: And suffragists wrote letters to the papers:

Saguache Crescent: July. The ballot is a natural means of self-protection, and as such every intelligent law-abiding person is entitled to its use. To be governed without having a voice in that government is a condition of subjugation adapted only to those who are incompetent to exercise the right of suffrage. No legislation can be just that excludes one-half the people before legislation even begins.—Mrs. S. E. V. Emery.

Silverton Standard: September. Let every man who loves his mother, his sister, his wife, or his sweetheart or who respects the female sex and is a friend of justice, get out and vote for woman suffrage.

Jessie: And pro-suffrage papers called on women for their opinions.

Pagosa Springs News: August. Up to date very little interest has manifested itself locally on the subject of woman's suffrage. The *News* would like to hear from the ladies themselves, whether or not they desire the right of suffrage.

Jessie: Any place where people were gathered, the suffragist message was shared.

Rocky Ford Enterprise: September. WATERMELON DAY! in ROCKY FORD. Senator Hartzell addressed the crowd in a few earnest words, pleading that the intelligent assemblage of voters before him would cast their ballots for equal suffrage at the November election. This ended the platform exercises and the visitors were free to assault the barricade of melons near at hand.

Jessie: And news of ongoing suffrage across the nation and the world appeared in local papers.

Chieftain: The house of representatives in faraway New Zealand has passed a bill giving suffrage to women, not only white women, but also to the native Maori women.

Silver Cliff Rustler: This is the alpha and the omega of the whole matter: it is unjust to deny women an equal voice with men in the affairs of government. What they would do with the right to vote if they had it is not the business of any man. [*glare at audience?*]

Rocky Ford Enterprise: Otero is the banner county in the state in many respects, and why not add another laurel by giving a majority for equal suffrage?

Jessie: Carrie Chapman's arrival in Colorado gave a boost to the campaign, and Colorado women kept plugging away. I know you've heard of some of these national suffragists but let's just say they needed the suffragists of Colorado as much as the suffragists of Colorado needed them.

[pick up the pace so that the stories tumble out]

Walsenburg World: A lady worker under the direction of the W. C. T. U. has been doing effective work on behalf of temperance and female suffrage at Rye. This week she came to the Apache on the same mission.

Pagosa Springs News: The Ladies of Durango are organizing an auxiliary league to the State Equal Suffrage Association. Why don't the ladies of Archuleta county take some steps to advance the cause of equal suffrage in this state?

Chieftain: The democratic party of Pueblo county declared unqualifiedly in favor of woman's suffrage. So, too, the Pueblo Populist county convention.

Rocky Ford Enterprise: The people of Gunnison met to form an Equal Suffrage club, under the leadership of Mrs. H. C. Olney, who was also a worker for the suffrage cause when the question was first presented in Colorado.

Silver Cliff Rustler: *[pause]* It is impossible for the women of the country to vote it into a much worse condition than it is now in.

Saguache Crescent: Letter to the Editor. What right have you women to leave all this work of caring for the country with men? Is it not your country as well as theirs? Are not your children to live in it after you are gone?

Mancos Times: In Lillian Hartment Johnson's address before the equal suffrage association, of Durango, much food for deep thought is engendered.

Saguache Crescent: Let every elector in Saguache county vote for the amendment to our state constitution whereby the equal suffrage act will be carried. With the influence and presence of women in our primaries and our conventions, there would be less trickery.

[Slow down]

Silver Cliff Rustler: We think we hear some antiquated old Jackass say that a woman's place is at home minding the babies. So it is, my venerable imbecile, and while she is rocking the cradle she can read and inform herself concerning the politics and the merits of the various candidates. After she has independently, clearly and decisively made her choice you can leave your saloon headquarters for ten minutes and go home and mind the children while she soberly and quickly deposits the ballot free from the contamination of the saloon or the elements surrounding it.

Pagosa Springs News: Women belong to the class of the governed, and since all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, it follows that a government to which women are subjected is not just if women have no voice in determining its course and policy.

Silver Cliff Rustler: October. The *Rustler* is proud of the fact that it was the first and only paper in Custer county to advocate giving the women of Colorado the right to vote at all the elections, and we are doubly proud that this glorious cause is growing in strength every day. There are now over 20 Equal Suffrage Leagues organized in Colorado, with a membership of about 1000.

[Pick up the pace, again.]

Saguache Crescent: Let every voter in Saguache county honor yourself by extending the right of suffrage to the women of Colorado.

Silver Cliff Rustler: Women are inferior to the men in only one particular and that is physical strength. That alone is a good argument in favor of giving women the right to say what laws shall control them and their property and what officers shall enforce said law.

Rocky Ford Enterprise: It will always be a disgraceful blot on the pages of history that woman has so long been disfranchised in this country while we gave the right of suffrage to millions of men who do not know what it means—men who can neither read nor write.

Jessie: In October, the Colorado Non-Partisan Equal Suffrage Association sent out a press release calling on women of Colorado to join the struggle for suffrage. The following message appeared in most Southern Colorado Newspapers.

Mancos Times:

Women of Colorado, do you know that there is a possibility that you may rise to legal equality with man! Are you working for that great end? Have you no interest in good government in your town, your county, your state! Have you no interest in the making of good laws and the election of good men to execute them! Does not your heart swell with patriotism as you see the best interests of Colorado struck down and our fair state lying prostrate under the blow! Do you not wish your voice to count hereafter in the tremendously important choice of the men who are to guard the interests of Colorado in Congress! Are you not interested in politics when in spite of the strictest economy want creeps into the household, when the mother is forced to pinch and save and deny her children; when the self-supporting woman sees her wages reduced, and when on every side arises a long, low undertone of sorrow, the cry of the suffering poor! No matter how hardly economic conditions press upon men they press harder upon women. It is the duty of every true daughter of Colorado to come to the rescue; to bend every power of the mind and heart to the

solving of the social problems that surround us. Charity can never do it. Philanthropy can never do it. Only right laws rightly executed can reform social conditions. The ballot is the greatest power and protection of this day and age. All that renders it valuable to men will make it valuable to women. If the circumstances of your life are such that you have never seen the need of it, it is your duty to aid your less fortunate sisters to attain it. Think of 126,000 self-supporting women in Colorado. Awake from your indifference. Send for literature. Solicit the vote of every man of your acquaintance. Nine out of ten will vote for it if we but ask them. And be assured that in helping to carry Colorado for suffrage this fall you are helping to make history.

Even women of neighboring states stepped up to help.

Chieftain: Mrs. M. A. Marble, of Kingston, New Mexico is in the city. Last night she addressed a meeting at the Colored Baptist church on the subject of equal rights and organized a league for active work in the present campaign. This evening she will address a meeting at the court house and form another league. Tomorrow night she will speak in Bessemer and organize a league there.

Jessie: And local women persist.

Walsenburg World: Those local ladies, who realize the value of the suffrage, should arrange for a number of public meetings at convenient places in the county. They need not look for authority to any of the organizations that are pushing the matter elsewhere. They can find speakers among their own number who will ably present the subject.

There is time for a half dozen or more of such meetings. La Veta would be a good place to begin with, then Walsenburg and Rouse, not forgetting Scissors and points on the Huerfano.

As proof of our interest we offer space in *The World* to advertise any meetings called, and will also print bills for the same without charge.

Will some good lady start the movement?

Mancos Times: Attend the Equal Suffrage meetings to-morrow.

Rocky Ford Enterprise: The equal suffrage meeting at Odd Fellow's hall was largely attended.

Pagosa Springs News: A vote for equal suffrage is a vote for free silver!

Jessie: [*pause, bats in hand, downcast eyes*] Mrs. Lucy Stone, an original Woman's suffrage advocate, is dead.

Chieftain: Mrs. Theresa Jenkins of Wyoming will address a mass meeting at the county court house, to which all ladies and gentlemen are invited. The colored glee club has kindly consented to sing and will render several fine musical selections.

Mancos Times: Wonderful, isn't it, that all the really excellent papers in Colorado espouse the Populist and Equal Suffrage causes?

Rocky Ford Enterprise: The women of the land have as much interest in good government as the men and should have the same rights of expression of views as to officials and political measures as the men have.

Silverton Standard: Voters if you expect to enjoy heavenly bliss put an X opposite Equal Suffrage Approved.

Silver Cliff Rustler: [*stand, pause a moment in silence to get the audience's attention*]
29,461 votes against and 35,698. Woman suffrage has carried in Colorado by a nice majority, and this alone is glory enough for one year.

Audience: [*Cheering*] Wooahoo!!

Epilogue 1894-1895 and beyond

Cast:

Anna Pritchard, poet

Jessie Haver Butler

Jessie:

Women gathered at the suffrage headquarters in Denver at the Tabor Building, which was overflowing by 8 PM. Before the night was over, women spilled out onto the streets in Denver. In my home there was great joy.

Women in every walk of life were moved. Here are the words of a young Pueblo poet giving voice to the emotion.

Anna Pritchard:

My Colorado, just and fearless state,
How hast thou added to thy glorious name
By this new victory, this enobling step
Toward universal justice! Thou has placed
Its rightful crown upon each daughter's brow,
And given into her hands,
The mighty scepter of thy government;

...

I thank thee, noble state, that I breathe
An air so vivified by liberty.
Thou shalt reap, oh mother state,
A rich reward for this, though done in justice

Not in charity.

Jessie:

Shortly after women achieved the right to vote, they voted women into office. In 1894 Carrie Clyde Holly of Pueblo County (from Vineland) was one of three first women ever elected to a state legislature.

When we put women in the legislature, they were responsible for child labor laws, charity subsidies, an eight-hour-work day, and laws against child abuse and neglect. Carrie Clyde Holly was the first elected woman ever to pass legislation probably in the whole world. Her legislation was about the age of consent for women to keep girls from being forced into prostitution. So women voting did make the country a better place.

By the time the 19th amendment to the United State constitution took effect in 1920 women had been engaged in politics in Colorado for 27 years. Colorado had set an example for the entire nation on the political empowerment of women.

Now, back here is 1893, I've got some growing up to do. I'll help work the dairy farm and take care of my siblings and go to Central High School and then I'll head off to Smith College. In 1918 and 1919, I'm going to follow in my suffragist mother's footsteps and join Carrie Chapman (now Catt) on a cross-country lectureship for National Woman's Suffrage. Like those women in 1848 and in 1877 and in 1893 and you women in 2018, I shall persist. But that's another episode of the long struggle for women's rights.