

The Gazette

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TO OUR READERS:

This is the eighth in a series about the people and visions that have shaped the Pikes Peak region. It's part of Dream City: Vision 2020.

You can find out more about Dream City at www.dreamcity2020.com

LEGACY IN SPRINGS WAS TAYLOR MADE

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Alice Bemis Taylor.

For many, it's just a dusty name, words carved on buildings all over the city.

But Taylor was the mover and shaker of the early 1900s. Dubbed "Lady Bountiful" by the press, she created the Colorado Springs Day Nursery and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and fiscally supported Colorado College and many other city institutions.

That legacy has lingered in filed-away lists, typewritten budgets and board reports. Look for the woman behind the largesse, though, and she quickly fades from view.

"There's just not much here," said Leah Davis-Witherow, an archivist at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum. It's



COURTESY OF THE PIKES PEAK
LIBRARY DISTRICT

Alice Bemis Taylor

pretty much the same story everywhere, from the Fine Arts Center to the Colorado Historical Society.

No personal letters. No diaries. A few academic papers on Taylor and her famous family. The same handful of photographs of her.

The few who knew her well are likely dead. So the interested must fall back on a few papers based on first-person sources.

Which is likely how Taylor would have liked it. Unlike some of her peers, she preferred a life — and a death, apparently — out of the spotlight.

Ultimately, though, history refused to forget her.

The building blocks of Bemis

In a different time, it could have been a life out of airplane paperbacks and TV movies.

She was a rich kid, the daughter of a bag manufacturing

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