

# Zang, nature lover

By Lou Walther and Laura Spitzer

Adolph Zang was a well known figure in the Broomfield area. The hazel-eyed, 5' 10" often spent his weekends here, becoming a familiar sight while pruning his trees.

A nature lover, Zang had many related interests, among them the raising and breeding of pure blood horses. His Percherons were exhibited everywhere and won many trophies, prizes and blue ribbons.

'Champagne,' an internationally famous stallion purchased in France in 1908, was declared "the perfect type of horse," and was shown in various stock shows in France and America. 'Champagne' even won the Grand Prix in Paris.

The first sale of the Zang prized Percherons was held in Broomfield on April 6, 1920.

"Zang's Elmwood Stock Farm, first sale of purebred Percheron mares and stallions. Colorado's oldest and largest Breeders of purebred Percherons," read the advertisements.

First hand evidence today of Adolph Zang's foresightedness and judgment is the lovely, stately old mansion which he built in Denver almost three quarters of a century ago.

From the April 29, 1903 issue of the Denver Post:

"Adolph Zang is to build a \$50,000 residence at 7th and Clarkson St."

The final cost was actually \$108,000. In 1950, the half century old mansion was sold to the Mormom Church for \$30,000.

Minnie Zang now lives in Denver with Adolph Zang's grand daughter. 'Betty' Gertrude Patterson Arnold. Miss Zang smiles when

questioned about the old mansion and some of the write ups which have appeared.

"We'd like to get some of these discrepancies and exaggerations straightened out," she said.

"For example, according to the Oct. 3, 1967 edition of The Denver Post, there were 7 servants who did nothing but polish the woodwork.

"We didn't even have that many to do, all the inside and outside work," Miss Zang stated.

"Mitchell and Halback from Chicago painted and decorated the walls, and came in periodically to clean and preserve them. Later this was done by local men, Mr. Brunsted and Mr. Brandt. They also rubbed down the wood with oil, doing this once every two or three years.

"We had an outside maintenance man, a cook, a maid, and sometimes someone to come in for extra cleaning on special occasions. The girls always had plenty to do, cooking, sewing, canning.

"The paper also stated my father traveled through Europe to secure woods for the house. He did have men in the east select the woods and extensive wood carvings were created in the United States, but they were not from abroad."

Another mistake, according to Miss Zang, is that Colorado Ski Country, U.S.A., purchased the Clarkson St. home to serve as a center for the proposed National Ski Headquarters office for major U. S. ski organizations.

The Association did buy another building, but this one, located at 23rd and Platte, was built first by

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Phillip Zang as a home for the brewmaster. Ski Country now owns the home at 2345 7th St., just off of 7th and Water Sts.

When questioned about the old mansion, Betty Arnold mused:

"Yes, I loved it. I went there after my mother died when I was three. It was filled with beautiful things, and my relatives were all loving and understanding.

"We all had wonderful times together, and they had many friends among the early residents of Denver. My grandfather died 7 years before I was born, so I never knew him except through the words of others.

"Once, when Merritt Gano was playing hide and seek, he stepped into a closet on the second floor and plummeted down the laundry chute to the basement. He was bruised and frightened but not hurt."

When Adolph Zang's mansion was completed, it was one of the most spectacular homes in the area near the Capitol.