

February 1, 1993

Purchase Complete; Planning Developed

As the new year dawns, we are the proud owners of the original Baptist Church of Old Colorado City, with plans well under way for adapting it as a home for our History Center.

While there are many details to be worked out (President **Joyce Johns** estimates that it will be a year before we can open the Center to the public) we are confronting the immediate needs of the building and the Society.

One immediate concern is insurance. We have made arrangements, although a policy cannot be issued until formal inspections are completed. An underwriter for the insurance company and a fire department representative checked the premises and we're making arrangements for inspections by the Regional Building Inspector.

Members who responded to our November mailing gave unanimous approval to spending up to \$90,000 from our endowment fund for the purchase of a church building, which we traded for the 1 S. 24th property. When our offer of \$80,000 was declined, the board pledged an additional \$9,950 from current funds—not endowment—to meet the price of \$99,950.

Under terms worked out by **Mark Cunningham** of the West One Group, we paid \$70,000 immediately and will be responsible for an additional \$29,950 at the end of the year.

We established an account with the Fitters Credit Union and placed \$25,000 there from our checking account at 4%. The treasurer's report on page 4 does not include that transaction, but the summary which shows assets of over \$86,000 correctly reflects our current financial status.

A Westside Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

Shannon Cox is a member, sponsored by **Virginia Cox**. Even before he joined, he helped us create storage space in our History Center. The church had divided the basement into small rooms, using $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch plywood. Mr. Cox, a carpenter, supplied scrap lumber which, with the plywood, will create economical shelving.

Board Meets Often On Bldg. Concerns

Since we purchased the church building at 1 S. 24th, the O.C.C.H.S. board has met every week. A major topic has been new financial responsibilities.

We estimate total income for 1993 from regular sources and investments to be about \$3,600. If we re-invest half of that into our Endowment, we will have \$1,800 to cover such expenses as these:

Newsletter printing/postage	\$610
Guest luncheons (est)	60
Misc. postage (est)	50
Courtesy fund	20
Fees: reincorporation, etc.	20
Application fee for property tax exemption	75
Income tax returns (est)	140
Membership fee, Fitters credit union	25
Building Dept. inspection	150
Interest on \$29,950	2,995
Telephone answering machine ?	

Expenses like preservation and exhibit supplies, utilities, trash collection, and construction costs, have not been estimated yet.

We expect temporary insurance to cost \$826; telephone service will be about \$315. As plans develop, we'll relay estimates.

We'd welcome an offer to underwrite any item from some generous member. Please contact **Joyce Johns**, PO Box 6702, CS, 80934; or phone (719) 635-4649.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Weather Cancels Meet; Program's Rescheduled

For the first time in recent years, a meeting of O.C.C.H.S. was canceled because of bad weather in January. The program scheduled for Jan. 8 will be presented instead at our meeting February 12th.

Joan Frederick, a member of the Historic Preservation Board, and **Tim Scanlon** of the City's Comprehensive Planning Division, will present details of Colorado Springs' first complete preservation plan, covering 26 projects to be undertaken in the next five years. Ms. Frederick will show slides and answer questions about plans presented to the City Council Jan. 12th.

With our purchase of the Old Colorado City Baptist Church the program promises to be particularly interesting and timely.

Please phone **Lyn Owen** to make reservations, at 473-1846. **Lyn** and **Jim Rogers**, members both of O.C.C.H.S. and the Church, will help any who wish to use the elevator between our meeting and dining rooms.

Deadline Extended For Cemetery Tales

The Park and Recreation Department extended until March 15th its deadline for accepting stories associated with Fairview and Evergreen Cemeteries.

About 150 contributions have been received, many of which will appear in a book, "Here Lies Colorado Springs." Those whose stories are used will receive a free copy. Forms are available at Penrose and East libraries and the Recreation Department. We'll send forms to out-of-town members who request them. No need to send "polished" narratives.

Westside Memories: Turning Back the Clock on Local Events

Twenty-five Years Ago

February, 1968

El Paso County Highway Department, 16 W. Vermijo, was the first violator of the ban on trash burning.

Urban Planning Commission supported School Dist. 11's request to close 200 block of Boulder to expand Palmer high's campus. Merchants objected.

Marine PFC Steven Reichert, formerly of 3361 W. Bijou, died from injuries in Viet Nam. He attended Sacred Heart, West Junior and Palmer.

The eight different collections by the George Fisher family were covered in the Gazette's Leisuretime magazine.

Merchants prepared for a 1% city sales tax, added to the state's 3%, to go into effect March 1st.

Ad in the Gazette touted Pikes Peak Photo, 2506 W. Colorado, as the city's only color photo-processor.

Syphilis in state increased 81%, mostly in Denver and El Paso counties.

Fifty Years Ago

February, 1943

Subjects of countless tourist photos at Seven Falls, burros "Cotton" and "Satan," died just 8 hours apart.

County's population grew 16% from April, 1940, to May, 1941, (to 64,534)—greatest growth in the Rocky Mts.

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Brickell, 413 N. Walnut, claimed to be the largest family born and raised here. Brickell came in 1905 when his father worked for Gen'l Palmer; married Mary Dolan of a pioneer family. Twelve children, from 7 to 24, were born here.

County's last Civil War vet, Herman E. Dreier, 102, died.

Council voted to buy Beth El hospital and National Methodist sanatorium.

Rationing limited each family member to three pairs of shoes a year. Pound of coffee had to last 6 weeks instead of 5.

Charles Banks, 314 W. Willamette, was missing in action. Sgt. George Perry, 2402 Bott, was a prisoner of the Japanese in the Philippines.

Capt. Harry McCool, once of 2520 W. Pikes Peak, navigator on the Tokyo bombing, added a Purple Heart to his Distinguished Flying Cross. He, wife and 2 children lived in Lakeland, FL.

Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Squires celebrated golden wedding anniversary with a family reunion at 2729 W. Cucharras.



Above, Tom Tobin, who trailed and killed the Espinosas who terrorized early settlers. In February, 1893, Sen. B. L. Smith urged state legislature to make good on its promise of a reward of \$2,500 to captors of the Espinosas.

Seventy-five Years Ago

February, 1918

Colorado Springs' births in January were about average: 18 boys, 16 girls.

Food costing \$1.29 cost 72¢ in '07; 82¢ in 1910; 90¢ in 1914; \$1 in 1917.

Laura Belle McDaniels's estate was estimated at \$22,700. Daughter Pearl Kitto was administrator and sole heir.

Otis Thrasher bought the grocery at Twelfth and Colorado.

Col. Edgar Terbell Ensign, 79, died. He came in 1874, helped found First Nat'l Bank of Colorado City in 1895, was its first president. As state's forest commissioner he laid out most national forest reserves in Colorado.

Burns theater took over Opera House management. Opera House was opened in 1881; Burns built in 1912.

West End high school defeated Deaf and Blind school basketball team 25-9.

Clay Wolfe and W. E. Doner used autos and dog packs to hunt down coyotes. Good pelt brought up to \$11.50.

Mrs. Naught went to Waco, TX, to be with son Everett. He injured his arm in the aviation corps. It became infected; blood poisoning was feared. Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Wolf, 2514 W. Pikes Peak, learned son Fred gave up college law work in St. Louis to enlist in the wireless telegraph corps.

George Maxwell said no Midland band concerts would be given at Stratton Park next summer. Programs were scheduled for North, South, and Monument parks, and "the West Side."

Dispute between carpenters and Broadmoor was settled, wasn't expected to delay opening in June. Power house equipment was installed.

Golden Cycle considered having its own generating plant. Mill used half of electricity generated locally; it could save \$40,000 a year if it invested in a \$200,000 plant. But if it did, rates for remaining city users would rise.

One Hundred Years Ago

February, 1893

Midland passenger trains crashed head-on at Bath, east of Buena Vista, killing 3 crew and injuring 5 others.

Fatal injury of an engineer of the east-bound train, Frank McCammon, illustrated the agonies of such accidents. When trains collided about 3:30 am, debris from tender broke his arm and leg and pinned him against the boiler. His head and upper body were scalded by escaping steam. While crew sought to release him he "dictated" his will. He was taken to a Pullman, but suffered intensely, crying out, "My God, cannot some one bring a doctor to help me to die easy?" He died about 6 am, an hour before a relief train with doctors arrived. He left his wife and 3 children "well off," since he carried an \$8,000 life insurance policy. Fireman Joseph McIntyre died instantly; left a wife and two children (\$4,500 insurance). Brakeman Joel Bowersock left wife and child (\$7,500 insurance).

Miner Jack Spurrel of Arequa was probably fatally injured when a stick of giant powder, which he was holding close to a fire to thaw it out, exploded and blew off his hand.

There were no empty dwellings in Colorado City, ten were under construction. Hassell and Talcott foundry (10 employees) was busy with castings. Ute Pass Paint was to supply paint for interior of the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City.

William Frizzell planned to cut 4,000 tons of Lake Argyle ice—double last year's harvest. He filled ice houses for the Mansions, the Manitou, the Cliff, the Iron Springs, and for J. B. Wheeler and Gen'l Adams.

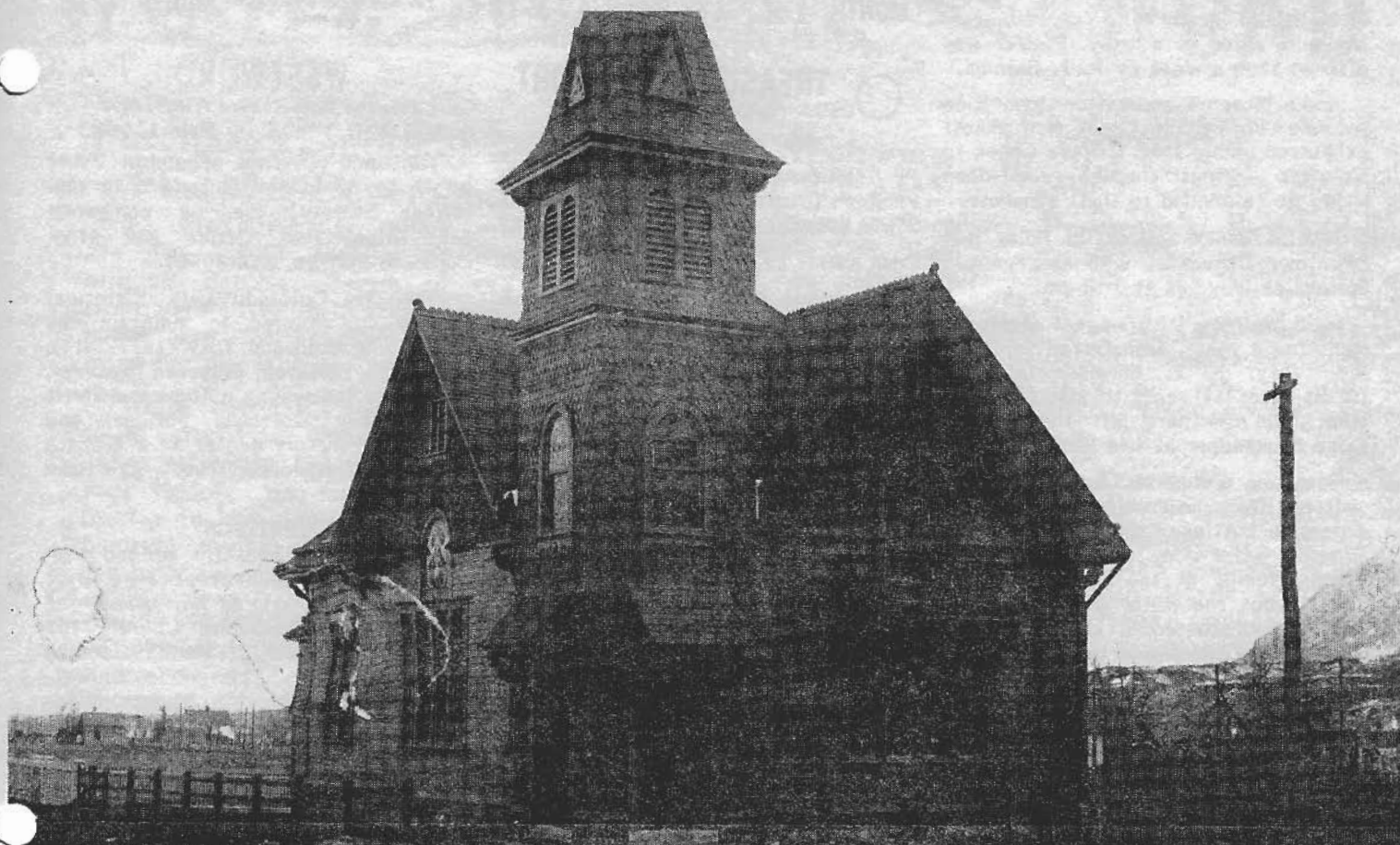
Once-famous Sgt. O'Keefe of Pikes Peak was an express-company employee on the Midland. He was burned by sparks from the stove when a baggage car went off the rails near Hartsel.

Elbert county asked legislature to change time of its district court from December to June. District Attorney Cochran froze his ear while traveling across county, and it was occasionally impossible to serve subpoenas.

A bill was introduced to split "Divide" county from northern El Paso. Members of the committee opposed to carving a "Gold Camp" county from El Paso were angry that petitions were stolen from tables in Cripple Creek.

Smallest man in the world lived in Cripple Creek: William Pfeifer, 26, weighed 44 lbs. (just 33 lbs. more than
(Continued on page 4, column 1)

102-Year-Old Church Building Retains Simple Grandeur



Historic photo courtesy of David Hughes.



Above is the First Baptist Church of Old Colorado City as it looked soon after construction, about 1891.

At t is the church as it appears today with an addition made about 1917 at the far right.

We've been pleased to learn that because the building is historic, many improvements which might be required of a commercial building will not be required—we are changing ownership, but not the use of the building. For example, a sprinkler system won't be demanded, and although we'll probably want such protection we have latitude about when we install it and more flexibility in getting funding.

Memories

Continued from page 2

at birth); 33 inches tall. Mother blamed medicine given as a baby. Pfeifer was offered \$100 a week by P. T. Barnum.

Lake Moraine supervisor John Rice rescued two Cripple Creek men almost exhausted hiking from Cripple Creek to Colorado Springs through waist-deep snow. He responded to their gunshots.

Austin Banks and O. E. Boles left downtown Denver at 6:25 am, reached Springs on bicycles at 3:30 pm.

J. S. Nichols, D&RG agent at Monument for 3 years, transferred to Colorado City. F. F. Shreiber left the D&RG after 3½ years to join the Midland. John Couthard left the Midland to be bookkeeper at Ute Pass Paint.

Manitou discussed how to prevent visitors from carrying off mineral waters in bottles. J.B.Wheeler said the Mineral Water Co. didn't mind outsiders drinking at the site, but didn't like it when the water was carted off. Town also debated a street railway from the D&RG station to Iron Springs, Grand Caverns and Cave of the Winds.

Wheeler ordered a 9-foot statue of Zebulon Pike for Manitou's square.

Manitou was entertained by Mineral Water Company's repairs to its spring: company hired a man in a diving suit!

125 Years Ago

February, 1868

Comment after a trip between Trinidad and Denver: "The very meanest of all eating places and hotels on the line is at Colorado City. The traveler is swearing mad from the time he enters the house until he leaves it. Bean soup is a staple dish for all meals, and a clean towel is rarely known in the house. The place is a disgrace to Colorado City."

Similar complaints from "H", though he notes two good schools: district school with 40-50 scholars, and Prof. Baty's select school with about 30. He also noted "evidence" of an extinct volcano on the side of Pikes Peak!

Denver hung five horse or stock thieves in two incidents in one week.

Eleven Ute Indians, Gov. Hunt, Kit Carson and others were shown through the White House by President Johnson.

Travel times by stage, including stoppages en route: Santa Fe to Trinidad (222 miles), 38 hours; Trinidad to Denver (218 mi.), 36½ hours. Santa Fe to El Paso took 4 days, Santa Fe to Tucson, 7 days; El Paso to San Antonio, 13 days.

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Old Colorado City Historical Society
February 1, 1993

MEETING FEB
THIS
MONTH 12

11 am at Trinity U. M. Church, 1920 North 20th
Located just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center
To make or cancel luncheon reservations, please phone
LYN OWEN, 473-1846 You may leave a message
at any time.

MEETING MAR
NEXT
MONTH 12

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Croff, Treasurer

Assets as of 1/19/93

PP Nat'l Bank (checking)	32,734.06
PP Nat'l (Certif of Dep)	12,885.88
World Svngs (CD)	41,183.53
Cash assets as of 1/19/93	86,803.47

(We made \$70,000 payment towards purchase of the 1 S. 24th bldg.)

SECRETARY'S EXPENSES

Ralph Conner, Secretary

To January 31, 1993

12/31/92 Postage: visitor NL's	1.45
1/22/93 Negs and plate, Jan NL	12.10
Total due sec'y as of 2/1/93	13.55
(Negs and plates for Dec. and Jan. newsletters appeared incorrectly as \$22.04; corrected to \$12.10 in expense record submitted to treasurer 1/1.)	

SENIOR CITIZENS' LAMENT

Thought I'd let my doctor check me
'Cause I didn't feel quite right.
All those aches and pains annoyed me
And I couldn't sleep at night.

He couldn't find find any real disorder,
But he wouldn't let it rest.
What with Medicare and Blue Cross
We could afford to do a test.

To the hospital he sent me,
Though I didn't feel that bad.
He arranged for them to give me
Every test that could be had.

I was fluoroscoped and cystoscoped,
My aging frame displayed;
Stripped upon an ice-cold table
While my gizzards were X-rayed.

I was checked for worms and parasites,
For fungus and the crud,
While they pierced me with long
needles

Taking samples of my blood.

Doctors came to check me over,
Probed and pushed and poked around,
And to make sure I was living
They then wired me up for sound.

They have finally concluded
(Their results have filled a page)
What I have will some day kill me;
My affliction is old age.

—Author unknown.

OLD COLORADO CITY BRANCH LIBRARY HOURS

Monday, 12-8
Tuesday, 2-6
Wednesday, 10-6
Thursday and Friday, 2-6
Saturday, 10-6

WESTWORD

Edited by Ralph Conner, 719/634-0895

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Published the first of almost every month by the Old Colorado City Historical Society, Inc., a non-profit corporation, Post Office Box 6702, Colorado Springs, CO. 80934.

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was formed to maintain the memory of Colorado City (1859-1917), encourage research, preserve pictures, keep alive the unique culture and spirit of Westside Colorado Springs, and establish a history center at 1 S. 24th in honor of Colorado City's dramatic and significant past.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month (except June, July and August) at 11 a. m., usually at Trinity United Methodist Church, 701 N. 20th—just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center. The public is welcome and no reservation is needed for the program.

The meeting is followed by a luncheon, served by people of the church. Cost is \$5 per person. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE LUNCHEON and should be made by phoning Lyn Owen, 473-1846. Leave a message any time. Please call Lyn Owen to cancel if you find you cannot attend.

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual membership is \$5 a year; family membership is \$10. Memberships are welcome any time. Renewal falls in April. Members receive this newsletter and local members will be phoned before each meeting if they wish.

Lifetime Memberships are also available for \$100 per person. This amount is placed into a Perpetuity/Endowment fund, to be used only for projects which have been approved by two-thirds of the members. Only the interest will be used for current expenses. We welcome gifts to this fund, which will be credited to the donor or as a memorial.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President	Joyce Johns	635-4649
Vice President	Jan Knox	495-3359
Secretary	Ralph Conner	634-0895
Treasurer	John Croff	632-2896
	Vera Chambon	634-2340
	Virginia Cox	635-8705
	Lucille Cunningham (work)	636-9341
	Sandi Hoewisch (work)	635-2266
	Dorothy McGlasson	632-1932
	Pat Patton	574-6976
	Leon Young (work)	633-2621