WEST Old Colorado City Historical Society WORD

JUNE/JULY 1995

HISTORY CENTER NOW HISTORICAL LANDMARK

Two O.C.C.H.S. Members Work To Get Our Building on State Register

The Colorado Historical Society has notified our very busy **Jan Knox** that on June 14, 1995 they have listed the First Baptist Church, 1 South 24th Street and home of our History Center, in the State Register of Historic Properties for the State of Colorado. This is a momentous and long sought after designation for the O.C.C.H.S.

Ralph Conner began the long process of getting our building listed in the State Register by documenting and making our first submission. The Colorado Historical Society replied that we would be considered if we could document the fact that our building is the oldest ecclesiastical building that remains standing and show the prominence of the building's architect.

Jan Knox continued the process which included many, many hours of diligent research to document the impact and importance of our building's architect, W.F. Douglas. This was not an easy task and Jan's research has answered many questions about Mr. Douglas and his work. Our heartfelt thanks to Jan and Ralph for successfully achieving this honor for our building.

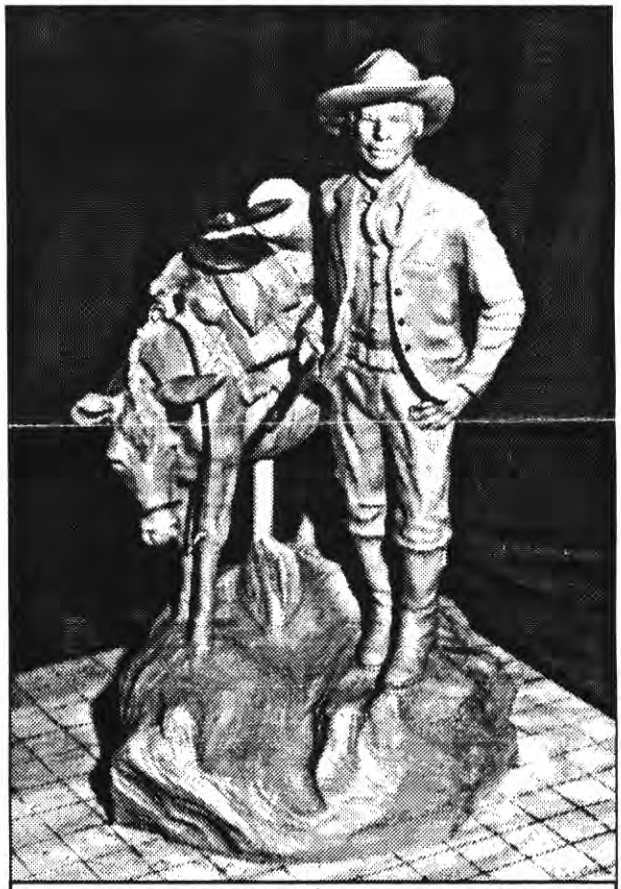

photo by Paul Idleman

The Prospector and his burro, concieved by award winning sculptor Cloyd Barnes, was displayed for our May Program. Barnes presented a proposal for his work to stand at the northwest corner of 21st Street and Hwy 24 and outlined the fundraising necessary to achieve the goal. See back page.

MEN IN GARDEN OF THE GODS

OUR JULY PROGRAM

The noted historian team of **Richard** and **Mary Ann Gehling** will present our next program on July 14th, 7:00 P.M., at the Odd Fellows' Hall, 2228 W. Pikes Peak Avenue. They will speak of many individuals instrumental in the history of Garden of the Gods including Billy Bryan and Fatty Rice. Billy Bryan is known for carving a stairway to the top of Gateway Rock. Fatty Rice ran a notorious tavern near the entrance to the rocks.

Pie, coffee, lemonade and iced tea will be available for $2.25. Call **LYN OWEN** at 473-1846 for reservations by JULY 11, 1995.

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

One Hundred Years Ago
JUNE 1895

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• Dr. C. W. Keys has opened an office in the Templeton Building in the room adjoining Bennet's candy making establishment.

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• The school year which has just closed has been a most satisfactory one. The attendance in all the grades has been quite large and the progress of the pupils has been rapid.

• El Paso county wheelman will be assessed at the rate of $30 on their high grade wheels and $20 on their old wheels. It is said that there are 3000 wheels in this county.

• There will be preaching in the First Baptist Church Sunday June 9th at 11 o'clock by Rev. Brighter of Brooklyn, New York.

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• William Mayo Swift was one of the class of fourteen graduated from the law department of the University of Denver this week. Will, as he is familiarly known to this city, where he has resided since childhood, returned home Wednesday. He contemplates practicing his chosen profession in this county. That he will succeed in making money and reputation is a foregone conclusion.

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L BOX

Good Shepherd, located at 23rd and West Kiowa? It is not in the City Directory after 1941. Please call Jan Knox at 689-2355 if you have any information.

Thank you,

Jan Knox
Florrissant, CO

DEAR WEST WORD,

When we were boys we never heard of the El Paso Canal, but we were quite familiar with the "*Irr'gatin' Ditch*," as we always called it. We used to cross a little bridge over it (just west of 31st Street) on the way to Annie Ray's grocery store, and we used to pass the Camp Creek flume on the way to Whittier School. The ditch originated at a Fountain Creek dam near 33rd Street, not 31st Street, as the May *West Word* states. It ran uncovered through the long 3100 block, and privies were built on top of it, so it is not entirely true to say that "Colorado City could not use the ditch."

Ira Current
Rochester, NY

Richard N. Current
South Natick, MA

It's always nice to hear from Ira and Richard Current. Their remembrances of Colorado City and their wonderful collection of photographs will always be welcome in ***West Word****. Because we didn't print our newsletter in June, we had time to receive the following letter and the wonderful photograph shown on this page from Ira to illustrate their first letter. With Ira's permission, we will turn this photo over to our archives.*

DEAR WEST WORD,

Supplementing our May 12 letter to you concerning the "*Irr'gatin' Ditch*", I thought you might be interested in the enclosed photograph from my archives (#1,005) made in 1928.

Near the bottom center it shows one end of the dam and the beginning of the ditch taking off to the right. Near the lower right is the Grandview Grocery at the intersection of 33rd Street and West Colorado Avenue. Somewhat behind the grocery and to the left is the Arensdale School.

The photograph was taken from the "rock" at the entrance to Red Rock Canyon.

Sincerely,

Ira Current
Rochester, NY

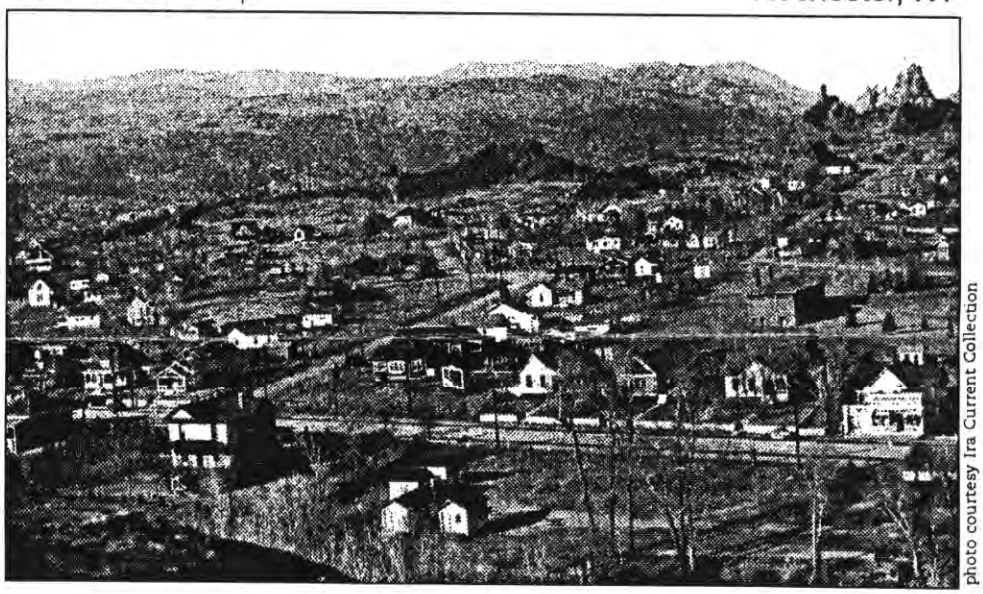

photo courtesy Ira Current Collection

Dear OCCHS,

Enclosed you will find a check for a donation of $150.00 from the Timberline Chapter #493 of Questers, Colorado Springs, Colorado. It is to be used to help restore the church and make it into a museum.

Timberline Chapter members took a tour of the building last September 1994. (Lucille Cunningham was) our tour guide and we enjoyed the interesting history of the church and we are watching the progress that is being made.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy E. Carstens
Secretary-Treasurer
Timberline Chapter of Questers
Colorado Springs

con't on page 7

From The President's Desk

Election Results

At the May General Meeting **Jim Ciletti** and **David Hughes** were elected to the Board of Directors of the Old Colorado City Historical Society. They replace former Board directors **Joyce Johns** and **Orrin Haynes**. Both gentlemen have an expertise that will be needed in the months to come. We look forward to Jim Ciletti helping to set up the collection division of the History Center. Dave Hughes will use his expertise in the technology department. Welcome to the Board, both of you.

Lucille D. Cunningham was re-elected to serve as President; **Betty Baker**, Vice-President; **Marty Walker**, Secretary and **Mary Jo Wallace**, Treasurer.

Condolences

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Arnold Cunningham**. Our heartfelt sympathy to you, Gerry.

Thanks to

Liz Geiss for framing important newspaper articles for the Bancroft Park Cabin. These are articles about the cabin.

To the **Timberline Chapter #493 of Questors** (President - **Mrs. Virgil Wagner**) for the $150.00 donation to the building fund.

Thanks to the various committee chairman heading up the committees. Your work is most appreciated.

con't on page 6

OUR HARD WORK IS JUST BEGINNING

This is a very important item for a select group of Old Colorado City Historical Society members. You will know who you are.

Our history center building is now 70% finished, with the exterior rehabilitation completed, and work ready to begin on the interior. If you drive by, you will no doubt be impressed with the handsome siding, new roof, attractive doors, entrance ramp, three-toned colors, and restoration of the balcony overlooking 24th Street. Or drive by at night and see the lighted, stained-glass windows just installed.

We have made good use of $200,000 in buying and repairing the 105-year-old structure. We have accumulated most of what we will need to upgrade the interior. We have in our building fund, promised by foundations, or from specific fund-raising efforts about $65,000 of the $80,000 needed for the final phase of construction.

What's more, we have prospects of saving thousands of dollars in the final phase if we can start the contractor immediately on the interior. That should save $8,000 that can be applied to historic displays and operations. If we must delay interior remodeling until funds become available, the expense will be greater.

You are aware of several of our fund-raising efforts. A square foot of interior space costs about $50. You are being invited by the enclosed flyer to buy a memorial brick for our patio, and that $50 will help with interior reconstruction. We welcome contributions to our building fund of any amount at any time.

But this item is written with the thought that we may may have members who intend to make a sizeable contribution towards our history center. They may have in mind sending major support without tying it to a particular project or a specific building feature. They are only waiting for a moment when their donation will have maximum value.

We always have need for contributions, such as the recent generous donation from **Rosemae Campbell**, earmarked for our endowment fund.

But a contribution in any amount to our building fund will be especially helpful right now. Some foundations send funds to match money raised, or to match an amount pledged by members. Thus, contributions or pledges paid in the next two months will release foundation funds immediately and do the job of twice the amount donated.

We acknowledge gratefully previous donations to our Society and our building fund. We recognize that this may not be a convenient time to contribute. But if there are those who want to support our efforts but want to apply to greatest effect, this is an excellent time. to send either a check or a pledge.

Welcome New Members

Connie and **Charles Brett**, Colorado Springs. Both are from Virginia, and interested in antiques. Charles repairs old radios and old lamps and has a 10,000 volume library.

Beulah O. Butler, Colorado Springs. She came from Kansas in 1942; is interested in history and keeping healthy.

Diane and **Thomas Hartshorn**, Colorado Springs. She publishes personalized children's books.

Karla and **Rex Hefferan**, Colorado Springs. They own the AWARENEST Bed and Breakfast. They came here from Orlando, Florida and appreciate being in an historic area.

Mary F, Heltemes, Colorado Springs.

Andralee H. Holland, Colorado Springs. She came from Oklahoma when she was nine, attended school in Woodland Park, Glen Eyrie, West Junior High and Cheyenne High. She worked for Merrill Shoup and enjoys knitting and needlepoint.

Heath McAnally, Colorado Springs.

Mrs. Evelyn Neilson, Colorado Springs.

Grace and **Ed Peterson**, Colorado Springs. Natives of Colorado Springs, Ed worked for the city utilities for forty years. Grace had been a secretary for the Chamber of Commerce and Young Life. They have 12 grandchildren.

Paul Shepart, Colorado Springs.

by Kay Arnold

FROM THE ARCHIVES

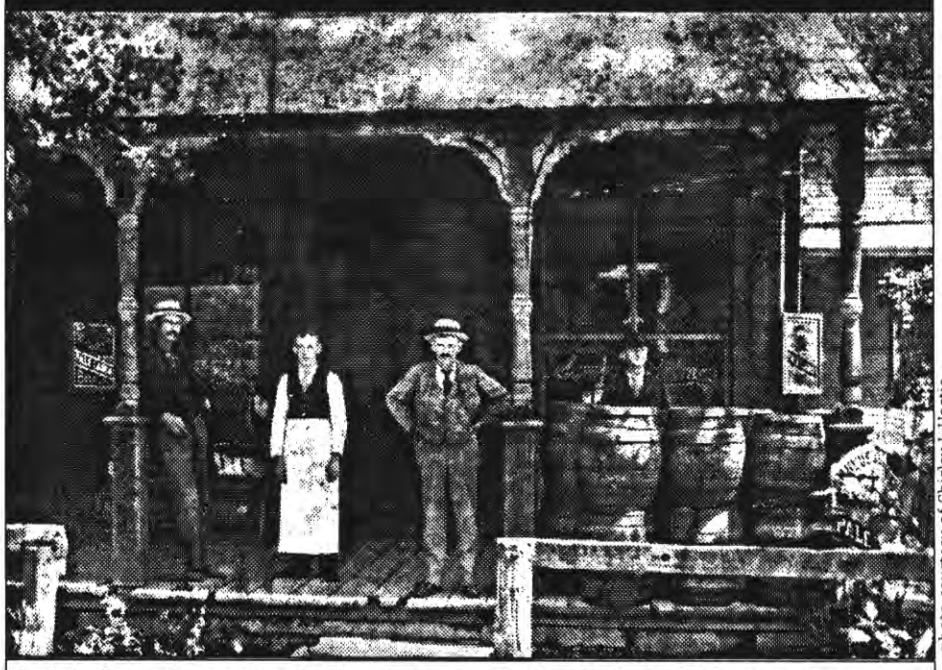

photo courtesy of Shirley J. Hartje

Ralph Conner received this photograph of a Colorado Avenue bar circa 1896 or 1897 from **Mrs. Shirley S. Hartje** of West Chester, PA while she was here at the Broadmoor for a brief visit. She has researched her roots in Old Colorado City which began in 1896. Her grandfather, Edward Charles Schmickel, is the man in the middle wearing the apron. His father, Edward Gustav Schmickel, stands to his left. The others in the photo are not identified. Edward Gustav Schmickel sought relief from consumption and brought his family here in 1896 after briefly living in Pueblo. He was associated with Fritz Asmus and John Keller in mining ventures, and perhaps in the operation of this bar. He died in 1898 and is buried in Fairview Cemetery.

Mrs. Hartje joined O.C.C.H.S. and allowed OCCHS to make copy negatives of several of her photographs for our archives, including a photograph of this bar's interior. Interior shots of Colorado City bars are extremely rare and we are fortunate that Mrs. Hartje thought of us in adding these to our collection. We welcome Mrs. Shirley S. Hartje to our group.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The code in the upper right corner of your mailing label represents the year and month that your membership dues are paid to. If your membership has expired, we invite you to renew your membership and support the Old Colorado City Historical Society by sending a check for the appropriate amount to:

Old Colorado City Historical Society
1 South 24th Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

From the President's Desk

con't from page 4

These chairman are very dedicated and do put in a tremendous amount of work and hours. Our volunteers are so professional. I'm proud of all of you.

Thank you **Ralph Conner** for making display cases for the cabin to use for Territory Days.

Thanks to those **West School Students** for preparing exhibits for Territory Days and signing up for face-painting during those days.

Treasure Sales

We must postpone our Treasure Sales originally planned to begin by now because our History Center cannot yet be used for public functions and the unpredictable weather makes it difficult to plan an outdoor event. We are looking into all possiblilities and hope to have a Treasure Sale in August.

The Patio Committee

Approximately 33 bricks have been sold to raise money for the renovation of the History Center. Thanks to all bricks have been sold to raise money for the renovation of the History Center. Be sure to see the enclosed flyer that will tell you how to order your Century Club brick for our east courtyard. Thanks to all who are working on this committee.

New Secretary

We welcome **Shirley Kyllonen** as the society's new secretary. She replaces **Marty Walker** who will devote any extra time to the Tour Committee and is also working part time. Thanks for the year of service you gave us, Marty, and the best of luck to you.

Chairman of all Committees

The Vice President, **Betty Baker**, will serve as Chairman of all committees. Call her (633-2350) for any information. Report to her on your committee work. The president will handle the building contracts and grant demands. This job is very extensive as it is necessary to oversee or inspect constantly. Many demands are made on the society as the community realizes the History Center is about to open up. We are asked to speak for various occasions, provide historical information and the like. The demands are many.

Thanks, Tim Scanlon

We thank Tim Scanlon for presenting his program "How to Research Your Home" at our June Meeting. We will have a write-up of his talk in our next issue of *West Word*.

Good Old Summer Time

We hope all of you are enjoying your summer. Let us know . you like the summer programs the program chairman, Jan Knox, has arranged for you. They are held at the IOOF hall at 7:00p.m. the second Friday of each month.

by Lucille Cunningham

OCCHS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Old Colorado City Historical Society welcomes your involvement. We need volunteers to work events and serve on committees. There are many projects and activities to choose from. OCCHS is growing rapidly and accomplishing many wonderful things. Please call if you can help or need further information.

Betty Baker
633-2350

TIME TO RENEW???
PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Membership Application

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift from _____

☐ Individual ($10) ☐ Family ($15) ☐ Lifetime ($150)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone(s) _____ ZIP _____

☐ I WOULD
☐ I WOULD NOT } *like a call if I don't make a lunch reservation*

Make checks payable to: Old Colorado City Historical Society
Mail to: 1 South 25th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

TRANSITION

Arnold Martin Cunningham died May 20th at the age of 76. He was a Colorado Springs native, a World War II verteran and an electrician formerly with Electrical Construction Company.

He was born March 2, 1918 to Charles and Clara Mary (Heid) Cunningham. His first wife, Regina, died in 1984 and he married Geraldine on March 2, 1985. Besides his wife, who is a member of O.C.C.H.S., he is survived by daughters Mary Williams, Bedford, TX; and Paula Borden, Colorado Springs; by stepdaughters Sharon McClelland, Colorado Springs; Margaret Seese, Breckenridge; stepsons John Wright, Denver; and James Wright of Washington, D.C.

Besides his membership in the Old Colorado City Historical Society, Mr. Cunningham belonged to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Veterans of Foreign Wars #4051, and Corpus Christi Church. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1445 N. Union.

by Ralph Conner

CENTURY CLUB BRICKS

Be sure to read the insert in this issue of ***West Word*** and discover how you can make a lasting difference to our History Center restoration and the history of the Westside.

By purchasing one of our 105 bricks with your name (or the name of anyone you wish) to place in our east courtyard. Each Century Club brick is $100 and is tax-deductible.

Reserve your place in Westside history by filling out the form inserted in this newsletter. The bricks are being offered to Society members first and then will be offered to the general public. A third of the bricks have been sold so **ACT NOW**.

MAIL BOX

con't from page 3

Thank you, Dorothy, for your kind letter and thanks to the Timberline Chapter of Questers. It's the generosity and interest in OCCHS from you and the other fine organizations who have pledged their support that will help make the History Center a reality.

VEGETABLE HOUSE REQUEST FOR HISTORY

At the northern end of the valley of Camp Creek, close to Glen Eyrie, stands the old Vegetable House or Root Cellar. The Navigators hope soon to restore this structure, which may date to around 1920 or earlier. Therefore, I appeal for any information on the history of this structure ...or any early photographs. It was used in the past cultivation of the upper valley.

We have records of almost all the buildings on what was Glen Eyrie but, for some reason, this particular building has no place in our archives. Although it is actually beyond the edge of our property, we feel strongly enough about its historical associations to wish to see it maintained. The city is, apparently, not willing to look after it adequately.

Please contact Donald McGilchrist at The Navigators, P.O. Box 6000, Colorado Springs, CO 80934 or by calling 594-2202.

Sincerely,

Donald McGilchrist
International Vice President
The Navigators
Colorado Springs, CO

Donald McGilchrist has been an OCCHS member since January 1994.

DEAR OCCHS,

My membership dues enclosed. I sure would love to see the newly acquired building. Lots of hard work has been done and lots more lies ahead. I miss Colorado Springs and the monthly meetings. Wishing you continued success.

Margaret Bofencamp
Klamath Falls, OR

We'll try to put building photos in an issue soon.

Murder Speaks Easy

Set in the 1920's

An Audience Participation Dessert Theatre Benefit for The Old Colorado City History Center Fund

DATE: Saturday - July 22, 1995

TIME: 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM)

PLACE: Odd Fellows' Hall
(NE Corner of 23rd St & W. Pikes Peak)

TICKETS: $12.50
($10 tax deductible donation to the Old Colorado City Historical Society)
Seating Limited to Eighty

AVAILABLE AT:

The Book Sleuth
2501 W. Colorado Avenue #105

Uncommon Grounds
2609 W. Colorado Avenue

or by mail from: Old Colorado City Historical Society
1 South 24th Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
Attn: TICKETS
719)698-2355
(make checks payable to OCCHS)

presented by The Old Colorado City Historical Society & Red Herring Productions

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photo by Paul Idleman

OCCHS member **George Fisher** (right) felt that Colorado City needed to honor the prospectors who were directly responsible for the birth of our town with a statue. He contacted renowned Littleton sculptor, **Cloyd Barnes** (left), who created the proposed artwork. A fund-raising campaign is underway to produce the finished piece to be place at the northwest corner of 21st Street and Highway 24. OCCHS is presently considering co-sponsoring the effort.

VOLUNTEER

RECIPES **RECIPES **RECIPES

Please, members—and friends—keep sending us recipes. Don't forget to include a brief paragraph about each recipe. It could be a family story or the history of the recipe. (*Perhaps a sugarless recipe from the early '40s or an inexpensive one from the Depression years.*)

In exchange, you will receive a favorite recipe of mine. I'm hoping that this will be an ongoing project, with more than one volume of our cookbook coming out of it. We want to be selling the **Recipe Exchange Cookbook** at the OCCHS Book/Gift Shop this fall, you know!

Would the women who sent the pumpkin pie recipe she served her in-laws in 1934, please send us her NAME and ADDRESS. The envelope was discarded before it was notice the info was missing from her recipe.

Send your recipe with name and address to:

Kay Arnold
RECIPE EXCHANGE
COOKBOOK
One South 24th Street,
Colorado Springs CO 80904-3319

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ONE SOUTH TWENTY-FOURTH STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904-3319

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
COLO SPGS, CO
PERMIT #491