

# WEST WOOD



proud member of the Coalition of Pikes Peak Historic Museums

Volume 30, Number 9 November 2015

## Peoples Bible College - Part 2

by Suzanne Schorsch

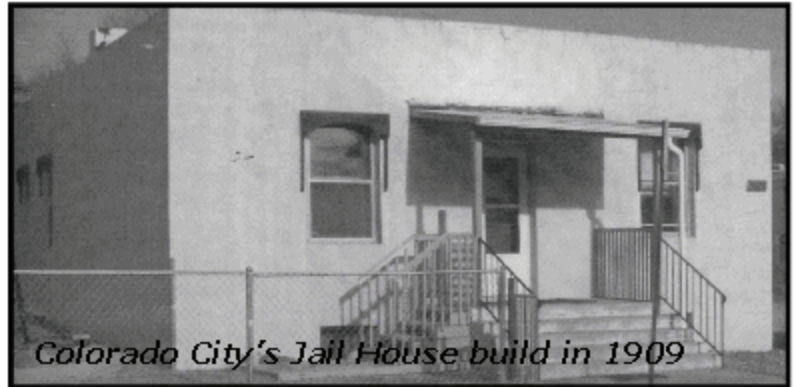
People's Bible College has been part of the Westside Community starting in the 1930s. Many of the students that attended School at the People's Bible College have memories of both their school and stories that were told about the community where they lived.

One student remembers living at 3021 W. Pikes Peak where from her home she could see the "Hangman's Tree". The tree had been used for men who had committed murder in the pioneer days. Where her house sat had been a house of prostitution and she "heard" that the preacher from the church near Bancroft Park burnt it down and by orders, the preacher had to let the women move into the church until their home was rebuilt. One later owner of the house where the Hangman's Tree was located had to take down a branch when it came too close to the house. Marks from the ropes still were seen on the branch.

Also students remember the story that on the SW corner of Colorado and 27th, where there was once an A&W Root

Beer Stand, was an empty lot where a gunfight duel took place. The shooter was carted off and hung on the Hangman's Tree. He was hung in vain for murder, as the man he shot lived.

The old jail house built in 1909 at 2626 West Cucharras was bought in 1940's. It had thick walls and was like stepping into a cave. It was used for living quarters. It had a tunnel attached to it that had been filled. Students remember stories of the tunnels of Colorado City. The Pleasant View Apartments had a tunnel entrance.



*Colorado City's Jail House build in 1909*

*Continued on Page 3*

**Winter Hours**  
Beginning November First  
The History Center will be open  
Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

### Old Colorado City Historical Society

*'Preserving the past for the future'*

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319  
http://www.occhs.org (719) 636-1225

#### WEST WORD

PUBLISHED TEN TIMES A YEAR

The Old Colorado City Historical Society

A NONPROFIT CORPORATION

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SUBMISSIONS CAN BE DELIVERED OR MAILED TO:

WEST WORD Editor c/o OCCHS

1 South 24th Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

or Don Ellis - spiderwort@pcsls.net

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF EACH MONTH

#### MISSION

Revised August 2012

*The Old Colorado City Historical Society is a nonprofit volunteer organization established to recognize the historical significance and unique culture of original Old Colorado City and early El Paso County which includes the present and future history of today's greater Westside neighborhood.*

*This organization perpetuates the preservation and display of artifacts and archival materials, encouragement of research, education of the children and the community, through the membership and the operation of the Old Colorado City History Center at 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*

#### MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are welcome at any time. Membership renewals are due on the anniversary date of the initial membership. Members receive the *West Word* newsletter, discounts, local meetings and programs.

Annual membership classifications are:

|            |       |          |       |
|------------|-------|----------|-------|
| Individual | \$ 25 | Business | \$ 75 |
| Family     | \$ 35 | Lifetime | \$250 |

*Funds from a Lifetime membership are placed into an Endowment Fund to be used only for projects approved by two-thirds of the membership. 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.*

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                   |                  |          |
|-------------------|------------------|----------|
| Co-President / VP | Betty Baker      | 636-1225 |
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#### MEETINGS

The OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is held each month, except June, July, and August. The History Center opens half an hour before the meeting for refreshments and visitation. Everyone welcome.

## WELCOME ~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Pat Bogart

Muriel F. Dunkley

Diana Francese

Royce and Shirley Gipson

Krista Ann Jautz

Helen R. Leonard

Nancy Nowotny

Margaret Rosielle

Joanne Ruth

Dean and Marilyn Travis

Judy Vaughn

Steve and Gloria Wiersema

Margaret Williams

## Presidents' Letter

We hope that all of you braved a dark evening in Fairview Cemetery for Old Colorado City Historical Society's production of Haunted Histories. Under Susie Schorsch's direction, the event was a phenomenal success! Thanks to all of the actors and to our volunteers who helped behind the scenes.

Benny Nasser's exciting first person portrayal of a Civil War soldier on October 10 drew a large crowd from the community. It was another well-attended Saturday program.

Don't forget Ken Valles and his presentation of World War II stories on November 14. We'll look forward to seeing you there.

Betty and Kathy

### *Bible College Continued from Page 1*

By 1917 with the annexation of Colorado City into Colorado Springs and the earlier vote to go "dry" (no alcohol), the saloons and brothels were shut down and many tunnels were filled in.

Students also remember the lake near 2801 W. Colorado Avenue. This was where the Stockbridge's built their brick home (now the Amarillo Hotel). Mr. Stockbridge and Mr. Elwell ran a Colorado City brewery. It had a railroad spur to ship boxcars of beer. In the 1930s Lester Clark used the spur to park tank cars of gasoline which led to the development of Clark's Service Station.

Still renting many places in town, the People's Bible College purchased a two block area to build a school campus and Grace Tabernacle Church. The abandoned land was full with weeds and trash. The People's Bible College was still using the old City Hotel, but the fire department warned that it was a fire trap. So, it was torn down. Soon the old area was a beautiful and well maintained campus with its own church.

Students that attended the People's Bible College were expected to work on campus; they cleaned dishes, served meals, washed laundry, cooked, shopped and did janitorial duties. Some jobs were part of daily life. Others were jobs that helped offset the cost of tuition such as taking care of animals, farming on campus and helping with building the campus. Some cleaned houses in town and worked in business such as Mrs. Lynn's Home Bakery 270 3/2 W. Colorado Avenue for owner Rex Rotz.



Some boys from the congregation made the concrete blocks for building. City building officials would come and periodically inspect the blocks. The blocks were used to build Grace Tabernacle in the spring of 1948. One student remembers that her future husband worked making cement blocks. They would later be the first couple married in the church. Pastor Underwood was pastor at that time.

Kenneth Underwood married R. G. Finch's daughter (founder of the People's Bible College) and took over pastoring for the People's Bible College when Finch's health was failing. It was under Underwood that much of the building on campus was done.

The girl's dorm started in 1948 and was called Butler Hall. The grade school building was built in 1952; and the Headquarters building was added in 1961. The People's Bible College had its own print shop with a Heidelberg Printer for making pamphlets, and quarterlies.

The People's Bible College went from elementary school through college. The College raised much of its food and grew corn in the lot on 27th and Cucharas. The College raised cows, pigs and chickens. Many of the students remember the wonderful home cooked meals on campus, especially the ice cream.

The school taught honesty, integrity, responsibility, punctuality and moral values. Classes also included Chemistry, Biology, Literature, Management, English, Piano, Greek, Typing, and Astronomy, along with Sewing and Personal Evangelism. Music, band and choir were a big part of campus.

School started at 6 a.m. with devotions at 6:30. Breakfast was at 7, classes began at 8 with Chapel at 9. Boys sat on the west side and girls sat on the east. More classes were held 'till lunch at noon, and then classes were held from 1 to 3:30. Students remember that it was hard to make it to first class as they had to do the dishes and clean prior to going. When the school was renting on Colorado Avenue, they had to run up the 52 steps to the third floor for class. Conversation was sparse and no eye contact was made with the opposite sex as it would be called flirting.

In the evenings students were not allowed to walk to service until 10 minutes prior to the service. They had to walk two by two with their

roommates. In the service Girls sat on one side, boys on the other. Family members that lived near the school sat in a different area with other members of the congregation.

If your family lived nearby and you lived in the dorms, visitation was limited. When a young man wanted to date, an appointment was made with an adult present for the man to ask the girl permission. They were allowed a date once every three weeks. If they decided to marry, they could have a date once a week the last month prior to marriage. Dates were held at adult's homes and were a time for conversation. One member remembers getting in trouble for holding hands with her future husband when he walked her to her bridal shower three weeks before they were married in the later 1960s.

There were rules, yet in the memories from students, many wrote on how safe they felt and

how loved they felt within their community. Many became teachers, pastors and missionaries around the world.

As time changed, the congregation membership dropped. In the 1990s the school closed. Grace Tabernacle Church is still open today for remaining members. For many of us from the Westside, we remember the People's Bible College and the many students that grew up and remained a part of the community. Founder R. G. Finch lived on this earth till 1950 and is buried in Fairview Cemetery.

Information in this article was obtained from the People's Bible College. Memoir written by Rachel Thomson which contains written memories from the People's Bible College students and Grace Tabernacle congregation members.

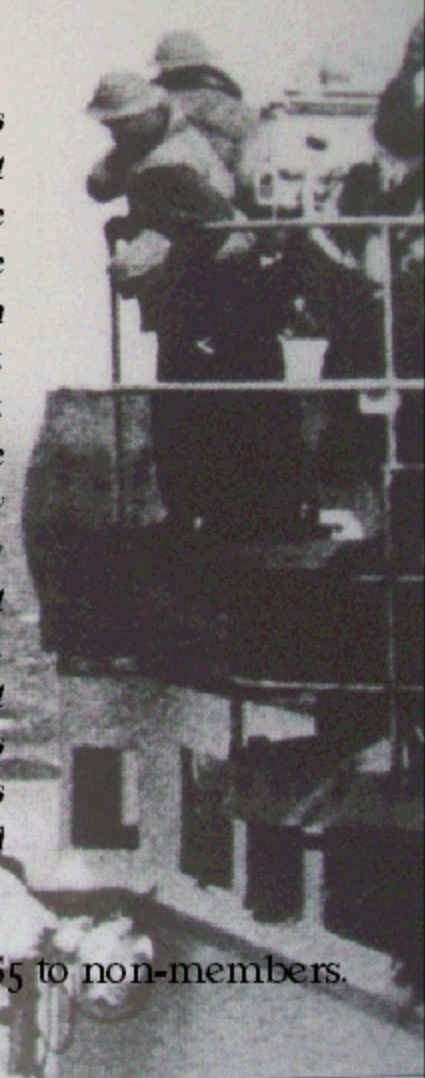
#### NOVEMBER PROGRAM:

***Saturday, November 14***  
***11:00 A.M. (Doors open at 10:30)***

***A Unique Pearl Harbor / Doolittle Raid Story: This presentation will cover personal aspects of the first major events of America's start in WWII that are not well-known. It concerns the lives of a Japanese Commander and an American Corporal, each on an elite mission, each fighting for his country. Both experience war's horrors, hating the enemy. However, they are brought face to face by a bizarre sequence of events that would impact many around the globe, and still does today. Presenter Ken Valles will tell details of this unusual account of war, bitterness, sorrow, forgiveness and faith. There will be video clips used, a summary sheet available, and a display. Ken has given numerous historical presentations in several states, and has studied the American West, World War II, and Japanese martial arts, for over 35 years.***

This program is free to members and \$5 to non-members.

Light refreshments will be served.





TREES, TALES  
and TREATS



**HUGE**

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



DECEMBER 5, 2015  
11 a.m. Until 4:00 p.m.



*After 20 successful, fun, exciting, years of the OCCHS Holiday Tour the first weekend of December, we are changing this annual holiday kick-off celebration. An open house will be held to thank members and non-members for a great year. We will feature small holiday trees decorated to reflect the history of Colorado City. The trees will be on top of our museum display cases and match the theme of the case. Costumed actors will host each tree/display case; the bookstore will feature gifts for your shopping along with local authors. The Victorian holiday table will be set up with hot drinks and sweets. We want to share the holiday with Colorado Springs. So.....FUN, FUN, FUN!*

### CALL FOR HELPERS

*Please Help by Decorating a Tree or Get Together with  
Some Friends to Help Decorate a Tree.*

Below are some ideas for trees and some decorations that might be appropriate.  
Remember these are small trees that fit on top of a display cases.

*Trees will be sold at a silent auction at the open house.*



#### **MINING INDUSTRY TREE**

-mining display

small gold bricks  
pans for gold  
gold rocks  
and more

3 foot tree to be provided by OCCHS

#### **RAILROAD TREE**

-Midland train display  
3 foot tree to be provided by OCCHS

small trains  
small Midland signs  
lanterns  
RR crossing signs  
and more



**SOUTHWESTERN TREE**

- Glorieta Pass battle New Mexico display  
3 foot tree to be provided by OCCHS

SW jewelry  
God's eyes  
rifles  
copies of battle flags  
and more

**VICTORIAN LADIES CLOTHING**

- clothing display

lace  
feathers  
combs  
jewelry  
small hats  
and more



3 foot tree to be provided by OCCHS

**GAMBLING, BROTHEL, SALOON TREE**

3 foot tree to be provided by OCCHS

mini champagne bottles  
playing cards  
lace  
dice  
simulated red lights  
and more

**MEDICAL TREE**

-Pharmacy display  
3 foot tree to be provided by OCCHS

simulated prescription paper  
fake pills  
instruments  
mini bottles  
and more

**SCHOOL HOUSE TREE**

-school display

3 foot tree to be provided by OCCHS  
pencils  
slates  
mini books  
paper chains  
popcorn and cranberries on strings  
school photos



There are probably a lot more ideas out there but these are some suggestions. Suggested locations for tree decorations purchases would be the Hobby Lobby mini section and scrap book section. There is the dollar store, also. You could use miniaturized copies of full size artifacts, signs, etc. Copy machines are great. You probably have even more ideas.

The trees will be put up at OCCHC on Monday, November 30 for display at the open house and through out the holiday season. There will be a silent auction at the open house to sell the trees. We can promise you that your name will be on your display, so give us a call and we will get started with this fun project. WE CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOUR HELP.....Joanne Karlson, 475-2574 or Sharon Swint, 630-8384.

# Lorraine Englert

The September 17th, 2015 *Gazette* displayed a large photograph of Kenneth Englert, in "Looking Back".

Kenneth headed up the Pikes Peak Historical Society in the 1950's. He was instrumental in getting the City to accept the Garvin Cabin, when it was returned from Denver after it sat on the State Capitol grounds during the Rush to the Rockies Celebrations of 1959. The city put it in Bancroft Park.

But, the accompanying text did not also credit his wife Lorraine who very substantially contributing to the ignored history of the original Colorado City.

She first contacted me once I had organized the Pikes Peak or Bust by '76 Committee to celebrate the Nation's Bicentennial and Colorado's Centennial in 1976 (and once I had showed my disgust with the Urban Renewal destruction of all the iconic historical buildings in downtown Colorado Springs which I grew up around).

Lorraine had obtained from the National Archives the only known - and faded - copy of the 1859 "Fosdick Plat" which laid out, named, and numbered every street and lot of the 1 mile wide, 2 mile long original Colorado City between today's 13th and 32d Westside streets. The "Fosdick Plat" gave the lasting name to Colorado Avenue 13 years before General Palmer showed up.

Lorraine then researched the ownership of every one of the 9,696 Colorado City lots and their transfers, and recorded them on 3 by 5 cards which she gave to me when she fell ill in 1978 and had to leave for lower altitudes where she, and later Kenneth, died.

It was that gift that spurred my 40 years of historical research and activism to get the city to use that same Urban Renewal money for loans to small businesses whose owners saved rather than destroyed over 100 original Colorado City buildings, and led to its designation as a National Historic District in 1982, the first one in Colorado Springs.

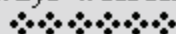
Lorraine, as well as Kenneth Englert, deserves credit for helping to preserve the original Colorado City, through the Ghost Town Club even before I became involved.

David R Hughes  
October 7th, 2015

The Old Colorado City Historical Society's Board of Directors meets regularly the third Monday of each month at 1:00 P.M. at the

**Old Colorado City History Center**, unless otherwise announced.

Interested visitors are always welcome at the Board meetings.



**The next Board meeting will be November 16  
at 1:00 P.M. at the Old Colorado City History Center**

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

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## November / December Calendar

**Saturday, November 14th**  
11:00 AM.

**Program: "World War II Stories: Pearl Harbor and the Doolittle Raid"** presented by Ken Valles. Ken has studied the Pacific Theater of WWII as a hobby for over 30 years. This has included trips to Asia. The presentation starts with the attack on Pearl Harbor, and then explains America's first major response known as the Doolittle Raid. There will be video clips and a display that complements the story of a mission that is actually hard to believe. As we celebrate Veterans Day Remembrance on November 11, let us truly revere those valiant efforts of Americans who served in World War II. The program will reveal the courage, innovation, drama and faith of our American warriors. OCCHS members free, others \$5.00

**Sunday, December 5**  
11:00 AM. - 4:00 P.M.

**Holiday Open House** After 20 successful, fun, exciting years of the OCCHS Holiday Tour the first weekend of December, we are changing this annual holiday kick-off celebration. An open house will be held to thank members and non-members for a great year. We will feature small holiday trees decorated to reflect the history of Colorado City. The trees will be on top of our museum display cases and match the theme of the case. Costumed actors will host each tree/display case; the bookstore will feature gifts for your shopping along with local authors. The Victorian holiday table will be set up with hot drinks and sweets. We want to share the holiday with Colorado Springs.

**Watch for more information.**

### Old Colorado City History Center

1 S. 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904 - (719) 636-1225 - <http://www.occhs.org>

*Museum Hours: Tues. thru Sat. 11 - 4 Free Admission. Donations greatly appreciated.*