

OCTOBER 1997

Summer is Over and It's BACK TO HISTORY

OUR GRAND OPENING



(left to right) Colorado Springs City Councilman, **Randy Purvis**, joined OCCHS past Presidents **Agnes Johnson**, **Dave Hughes**, **Lucille Cunningham** and current President, **Bob Heinich**, in cutting the ribbon to officially open the Old Colorado City History Center. Our church bell tolled at that precise moment thanks to OCCHS member, **Chris Winter**, to notify the Westside that the museum and research center devoted to its history was officially open. See Story on page 12.

photo by Don Kallaus

We've had many favorable comments about our History Center throughout our first summer. The most rewarding comment to us was that there is something in this society for everyone. That is exactly what we've been working towards. In a group as large and diverse as ours, we're naturally going to have members with different interests. With our common goal of preserving the history of Old Colorado City, we have been striving to find ways to get all of our members involved. Listed on page 13 are our committees that have begun to work and the new committees that we need to create to accomplish our goals. We are planning to use the winter months to build these committees to full strength. As you will see, we have something at the History Center to interest everyone.

First, a word about volunteerism. As with any non-profit organization, there will be volunteers who can devote as much time as needed to complete a task and there are those who can only devote a few hours. But any overloaded volunteer can suffer from 'burnout'. That's what we're trying to avoid.

The committees presented here are meant to be "working" committees, as opposed to "meetings" committees. These committees are set up so that a volunteer need not devote more than three hours a week. Most importantly, our work here should be fun for everyone. It's difficult to maintain your enthusiasm when you're giving your time for free and not having a good time with it. We all enjoy the history here or we wouldn't belong to this society. Our History Center has been open for over five months and is operating very smoothly. Now for the real fun part — let's get back to the history.

con't on page 13

MEET OUR CURRENT MEMBERS

We always try to profile one of our members in each issue of *West Word*. We thought we'd be ambitious this month and introduce you to three Old Colorado City Historical Society members. All three members do have something in common. They're all active in OCCHS and they are brothers and sister. And we're discovering that they are an enjoyable part of the history of Old Colorado City.

See page 5 for more.



Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
(719)636-1225

WEST WORD

VOLUME 12 OCTOBER 1997 NUMBER 8

PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF ALMOST EVERY MONTH BY THE
OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
OCCHS ©1997

LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTICLES AND STORIES CAN BE DELIVERED
TO THE OCCHS HISTORY CENTER OR MAILED TO THE EDITOR:

PAUL IDLEMAN c/o OCCHS
1 South 24th Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th DAY OF EACH MONTH.

MISSION

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was formed to maintain the memory of Colorado City (1859-1917), to encourage research, preserve pictures, and keep alive the unique culture and spirit of West Side Colorado Springs through education of children and the community and through the eventual establishment of a History Center at One South 24th Street.

MEMBERSHIPS

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

Annual memberships classifications are as follows:

Individual	\$20	Business	\$50
Family	\$25	Corporate	\$250
Lifetime	\$150		

Funds from a Lifetime Membership are placed into a Perpetuity/Endowment Fund to be used only for projects which have been 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

President	Robert Heinich	448-9001
Vice President	Dave Hughes	636-2040
Secretary	Jan Knox	689-2355
Treasurer	Don Kallaus	630-0322
	Beverly Disch	634-5023
	Betsy Evans	635-4782
	Christine Heinich	448-9001
	Patricia Joy	685-4483
	Orville Kenelly	471-0551
	Mel McFarland	533-1311
	Leon Young	633-2621

MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 11:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, except during June, July and August.

Reservations ARE required for the luncheon following the meeting. Luncheon cost is usually \$5 per person.

Please phone Margaret Gould at 390-8960 by the Wednesday prior to the meeting. If you find you cannot attend, be sure to cancel before 5:00 PM Wednesday or send someone in your place, as you will be charged for the luncheon reservation.

NEXT MEETING - November 14, 1997
at Trinity Methodist Church
11:00 a.m.



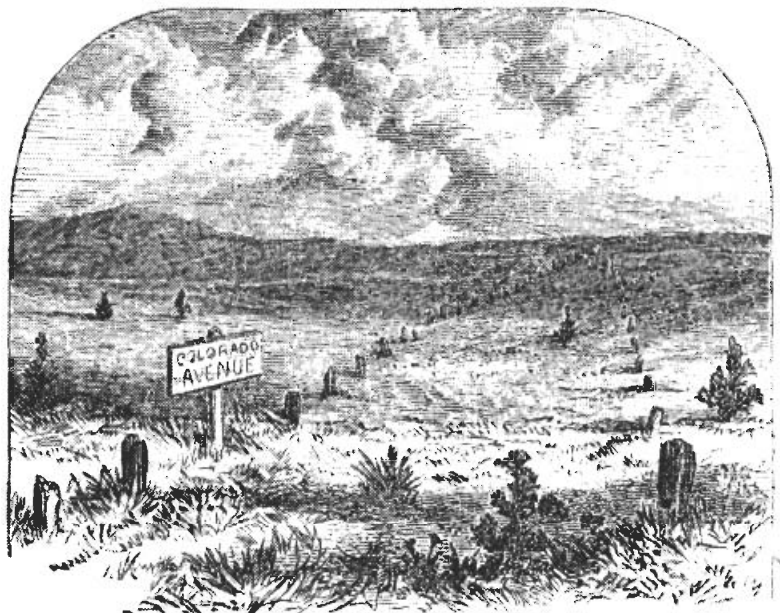
ROLL CALL

GENERAL MEETING 9/25/97
48 members and 4 visitors signed in

Karen Anderson	Elinor Messerschmidt
Kay Arnold	Albert Moberly
Cindy Batey	Katherine Moberly
Janice Billingsley	Doris Morland
Kay Campbell	Don Paddock
Chuck Cobb	Maloa Read
Virginia Cox	Mildred Rex
Martha Curry	Jim Rogers
Betsy Evans	Virginia Rogers
Leland Feitz	Claire Ruby
Wilbur Fulker	Harriet Seibel
Liz Geiss	Martha Simons
Margaret Gould	Marion Steavenson
Max Gould	Thelma Stoodly
Eileen Graham	Lois Sullivan
Alfred Hagedorn	Gene Tarbert
Orrin R. Haynes	Phyllis Wagner
Catherine Henderson	Thelma Williams
Ann Hiskey	Doris Wolfe
Flora Bell Hull	Wilbur Wolfe
Mary Idleman	Hazel Wright
Paul Idleman	
Sue Idleman	
Joanne Karlson	
Enid Kennis	
Ken Kolstad	
Mid Kolstad	

VISITORS

Jane Ehrig
Barbara Ewell
Mrs. Hoyt
Clarice T. Munro



First View of Colorado City

OCCHS MAILBOX

Dear OCCHS,

We wish to thank all the OCCHS members who have made the restoration of the History Center possible. Had it not been for your efforts, our 50th wedding anniversary could never have been so special. As most of you have read in West Word, we were married February 1, 1947 in the former Bethany Baptist Church that is now the location of our History Center. A special thank you goes to Paul Idleman for all of his help and advice.

It was like a dream come true that we could hold our celebration in such a lovely and meaningful place.

Thank you,
Albert & Katherine Moberly
Colorado Springs, CO

We've already let Albert and Katherine know what a special event their celebration was for us, too. The Moberly children planned and worked hard to give their mom and dad a beautiful party. We were very happy that Katherine and Albert could enjoy this milestone anniversary in the very place where it all began 50 years ago.

Dear West Word,

I've noticed a street name "Cache la Poudre" in Colorado Springs, a street name "Poudre" in Denver and a river name "Cache la Poudre" north of Denver. I've looked in several general Oregon histories here in our local library, but have not found any reference to "cache la poudre" or "poudre" and I'd appreciate any information you could give me on the subject, including any references to publications which discuss the topic. Thanks for your help on this.

Yours truly,
Gerard Rowe
growe@teleporte.com

We received this email from Gerard Rowe at the History Center. Mr. Rowe is not a member, so he will not see this newsletter. We will email him what we know. "Cache la Poudre" is French for "hiding place of powder" - gun powder, most likely. Our "Cache la Poudre" street was most likely named after the river. French was used for the east-west street names on the north side of Colorado Springs.

Dear OCCHS,

I am sending my dues another year. I enjoy the *West Word* so much, the interesting articles and, especially, the *West Side Memories*.

I enjoyed the pictures of the old round house and turntable. We lived close to the round house and we kids spent a lot of time watching those big engines get turned around and backed into it.

We also spent a lot of time coming down the hill on 21st by the Golden Cycle Mill on our bicycles and turning them into the sand from the mill. At that time it extended clear to the road.

The pictures of the interior of the museum are interesting.

Very different than when we went there to church in the late 1920's and early 30's. It is wonderful that OCCHS could get the building and have a museum to preserve the history of the 'West Side'.

Do you have a list of the books for sale in the gift shop? If you do, I would appreciate having one. I am enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.

If I were there, I'd volunteer to work in the gift shop. Thanks so much for all the interesting *West Words*.

Sincerely,
Lola Stone (Cooper)
Cottage Grove, OR

Thank you, Lola, for writing and renewing. Based on your recollections and the others we have received, one can see that it was a wonderful time to be a kid on the West Side during the 1920's and 30's. Your stories and memories will help keep that time alive.

*We are working on a detail list of the books in our Book & Gift Shop and will mail it to you when it is completed. Keep watching **West Word**, too. We'll try to run a condensed list of books when we have space available in the newsletter.*

Dear OCCHS,

I realize with the arrival of this WONDERFUL Pioneer Edition (our last issue of *West Word*), that it has been just a year since I first visited Old Colorado City and it is time to pay my membership dues for this coming year.

From what I've been reading, those of you in the area have worked together and accomplished most of what you were working towards when my husband and I were there last year. It was a serendipitous thing that we happened to arrive during the Founder's Day weekend.

(When I compile the information I have on the Stone family), I'll send it to Jan Knox, whom we met when we were in Old Colorado City. She was so pleasant and full of information. She even took us to a genealogical meeting our last evening there.

I hope to visit Old Colorado City this fall before the cold weather hits. Congratulations to all of you for your excellent good works and accomplishments.

Most sincerely,
Mary Stone Tate
Irvine, CA

Dear OCCHS,

Greetings from Minneapolis. Mike Stapp here. Born and raised in Colorado Springs and member of OCCHS since July, 1997. The web site is great. I work in the telecommunications industry and you folks have done a super job, not only with designing the site, but using state-of-the-art technology to get it out there. I'm impressed and rather proud of the little society making a big impact.

Best wishes,
Mike Stapp
stapp001@gold.tc.umn.edu

FOR YOUR INTEREST

SpABA Honors History Center

The Old Colorado City History Center is proud to announce that we were selected as one of this year's Beautification Award winners by the Springs Area Beautiful Association. **Bob and Chris Heinich** and **Don Kallaus** attended the annual Fall Gathering at the Chapel in Evergreen Cemetery October 5th to accept the award on behalf of the Society. This award would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of many of our members, most especially **Lucille Cunningham** and **Sandy Knox** who were instrumental in the renovation of our beautiful building.

The SpABA also selected the Smokebrush Center, Nancy Lewis Park, the Fine Arts Center Sculpture Garden and the Aiken Canyon Buildings - The Nature Conservancy Turkey Creek Canyon Road, along with the History Center, as beautiful properties in their 'Special Project' category.

At the other end of the beautiful scale, the SpABA chose many of the city's intersections as "Aesthetically Challenged" properties, including Platte and Circle as the "ugliest intersection" and Arcturus and Skyway Blvd as "no room with a view". The entire city of Colorado Springs was an SpABA loser for its "proliferation of weekend real estate signs."

Thank you to the Springs Area Beautiful Association

for honoring our History Center.

Thank you, Catherine Henderson

One of the major expenses we've been attempting to save for has been eliminated. Catherine Henderson has the donated the money needed for us to purchase and install

professional picture hanging strips to protect our walls. Our photographs have been hanging on wall dividers which break up the spaciousness of the main room. The strips will allow us to hang the pictures professionally on the walls to free up floor space for more exhibits. Catherine's thoughtfulness and generosity have again help us to reach our goals. Thank you, Catherine.

Summer Events

The Treasure Sales, Bake Sales and the Craft Fairs have ended a very busy and productive summer. Many thanks to all of

you who donated your time, your household items for the Treasure Sales and the wonderful baked items for the Bake Sales. **Betty Baker, Sue Idleman, Mary Idleman** and **Chuck Cobb** worked hard to make the Treasure Sales a success, netting over \$425. The History Center basement had every room full with donated items that were sold at our sales. We now have just a few items left on one table that we're saving for next year's sales. Thank you to **Kay Arnold, Lila Gorab** and especially **Bev Disch** for helping to make our

con't on page 14



Chris & Bob Heinich accept the SpABA Beautification Award at the Annual Fall Gathering held at Evergreen Cemetery.

photo by Don Kallaus

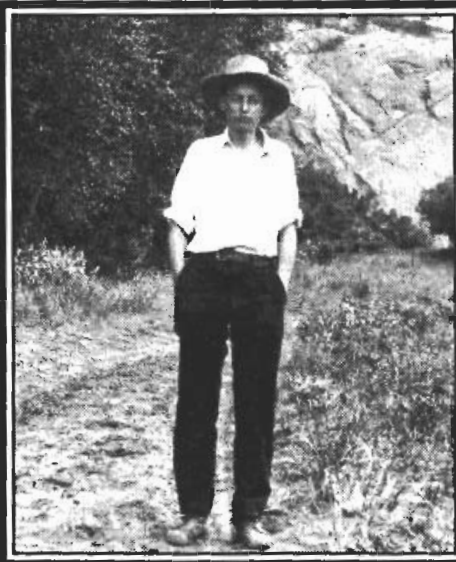
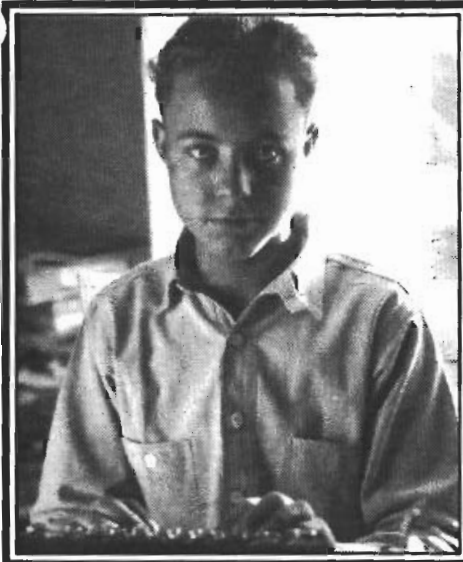
— OUR NOVEMBER PROGRAM —

NUMISMATICS IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

Coins, paper money, tokens, casino chips, stocks and bonds used in the early days of this area will be the topic of Ken Hallenbeck's talk, "Numismatics in the Pikes Region", for the program at our next General Meeting on Friday, November 14th. Ken is the current President of the American Numismatics Association and past Sheriff of the Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners. Ken Hallenbeck's knowledge and expertise with collectibles led him to start his successful Ken Hallenbeck Coin Gallery, at 711 North Nevada Avenue. Ken will share the history about the currency used here and show several examples.

"Numismatics in the Pikes Peak Region" and our General Meeting will be held on Friday, November 14, 1997 at 11:00 A.M., at the Trinity Methodist Church, 701 North 20th Street (just west of Uintah Gardens Shopping Center). Lunch will be available after the program for \$5 per person.. Reservations for lunch must be made before 5:00 P.M. on November 12th. Cancellations must also be made by 5:00 P.M. November 12th. No reservations are necessary to attend just the program and General Meeting. The ladies at Trinity Methodist Church always prepare a wonderful lunch. They always appreciate getting our reservations in time to buy the right amount of food for us. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated as we do have to pay for all meals ordered even if a reservation is cancelled. For lunch reservations call Margaret Gould at 390-8960.

MEET OUR CURRENT MEMBERS



(left to right) OCCHS members Dick Current, Ira Current and Maloa (Current) Read grew up in Colorado City.

When you get to know the children of Park and Anna Current, you instantly gain an understanding of how remarkable these two parents were in raising seven kids in Colorado City during the first third of the new century. Their little house on Pikes Peak Avenue at the west end of Colorado City was central to all the playgrounds that would interest curious kids; the Garden of the Gods, Red Rock Canon, the Midland Terminal Railway, the Golden Cycle Mill and, most spectacularly, Pikes Peak. All seven kids; Ira, Dick, Lynn, Maloa, Eugene, Irma and Grace were molded and formed by this combination of Park and Anna Current and Colorado City.

Three of these Currents are now fellow members of the Old Colorado City Historical Society. All three have been loyal supporters of our society and its goals, therefore are a big part of our success.

Our local Current member is a published poet. We've all enjoyed the poetry of Maloa (Current) Read that has occasionally appeared in *West Word*. Maloa also works in our Book & Gift Shop and helps to supply our bake sales. She was the fourth child of Park and Anna Current and the last to show a Colorado City residence on their birth certificate. She grew up loving to hike in the nearby Garden of the Gods and Red Rock Canyon. She excelled in school where she learned to love poetry. And she always loved the way Pikes Peak looked so symmetrical when viewed from her home.

Maloa has worked as a secretary for Alexander Film, the International Typographical Union and was employed in the funeral service for fifteen years. Her love of her family, her flowers, music and her life in Old Colorado City are evident in her poetry. Maloa has submitted another poem for this issue of *West Word*. "The Last Aspen Leaf" is appropriate for the season and can be found on page 9. Maloa is a joy to have around the Old Colorado City History Center.

Richard Current has been a life member of OCCHS since 1989. Dick was Park and Anna's second child. He was born at home, so Lincoln Avenue in Colorado City was his birthplace. His mother was Norwegian and Dick's father would often poke fun at her 'Svedish' ways. When Dick was born, his father said, "he looks like a Svede". Because of that, they called him 'Ole' and the nickname stuck, mainly because it was easier for his two-year-old brother, Ira, to say than Richard.

Like the other boys in Old Colorado City, Dick grew up with summers of playing in the hills around Pikes Peak. He attended school at Arensdale, Whittier, Bancroft, West and Colorado Springs High School. They must have instilled the love of history into Ole, for he went on to receive his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in history. He achieved many honored positions from many major universities. While accomplishing all this, Dick also taught in Japan, served as Fulbright Professor at the Universities of Munich and Chile and was the Harmsworth Professor of American History at the University of Oxford. His fondest honor came in 1985, when he was inducted into the Palmer/Colorado Springs High School Hall of Fame.

Dick has authored or co-authored twenty books, among them **Lincoln the President: Last Full Measure**, which received the Bancroft Prize; and **The Lincoln Nobody Knows**, still in print after more than thirty-two printings. Recently, Dick remembered the very first historical interview he ever did. That interview with his neighbor, Arthur Love, is presented in this issue of *West Word*.

We've seen several of Ira's stories in *West Word* over the years, as well as his remarkable photographs which he lets us keep for our archives and exhibits. His story of growing up with the Midland Terminal Railroad appeared in our July issue. His story from last year told of how he helped to get a local judge fined for trespassing at Glen Eyrie.

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A GLIMPSE OF A COLORADO PIONEER

by Richard Current

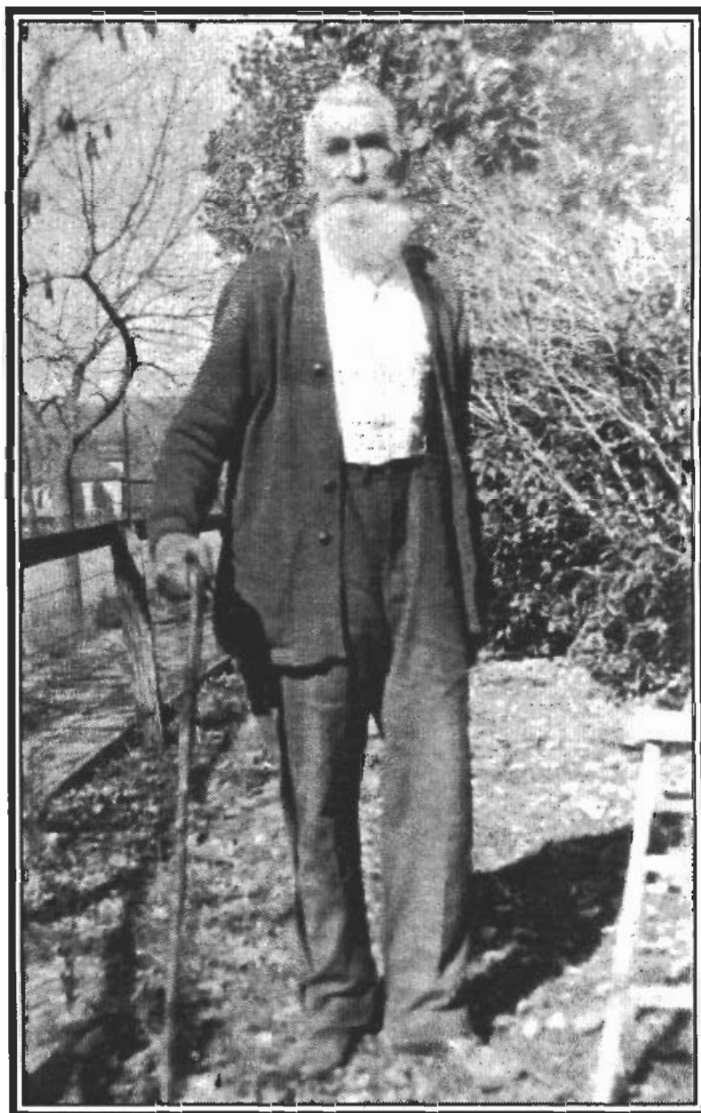
*I interviewed Mr. Love, our neighbor in the 3100 block of West Pikes Peak Avenue, in the fall of 1928 when I was turning sixteen years old and he was eighty-four, my present age. My brother, Ira, lent me a camera to take Mr. Love's picture. I submitted this article and the photograph to the **Gazette-Telegraph**, which ran both of them without any byline or credit of any kind. This was my first publication in American history. In my youth, the sixty years from 1928 back to 1868 when Mr. Love first arrived in Colorado City, seemed to me like an unimaginable length of time. Since my conversation with him, more than sixty years have passed.*

That now seems like a very short time.

In the shadow of Pikes Peak, where three score years ago Arthur Bascom Love lived in the color and uneasiness of frontier life, now with his wife he lives in quiet and security. Whereas his house once stood out alone, others have since sprung up all around, and innovation and change have made "old town" almost unrecognizable.

"Bee" Love, as he was known to his old friends, lives in the past. A few words, a question, and the years are magically erased. While he strokes his grey beard, a faraway look comes to his faded blue eyes as if he were actually peering across the brink, trying to locate some object, some event, afar on the opposite bank of the chasm of time.

Born in Kentucky of pious Methodist parents who



photograph by Richard Current

named four boys of their family of ten boys and two girls for Methodist bishops, he spent a large part of his youth across the line in Missouri.

"Why did I come west?" He chuckled. "Oh, just to better my fortune — like every one else." And by

what whims of fate he was denied a fortune!

Accompanied by a friend, Arthur Love, a young man of twenty-four years, set out on foot from southeastern Missouri in April, 1868. At Sedalia he parted with his companion, who turned back to Illinois. Shortly afterwards, Love became ill with typhoid fever. In a few weeks he was wandering the streets, penniless, friendless and weak from his recent illness. He secured work, at last, with the Union Pacific Railroad, which was building westward. When he quit, he was given a ticket on which he could "ride as far as he wanted to." He left the train at Cheyenne, Wyoming, virtually the western terminal of the road at that time.

Since two of his brothers were already in the Pikes Peak region, he started in that direction. He rode with mule team freighters to Denver, then walked the eighty miles through Indian-infested territory to Colorado City. Of his trip he observes in that way of his, "I started out walking and I ended up walking, but I didn't walk all the way."

Not long after his arrival, he sold his 160 acres on the east bank of Monument Creek, the present location of the Colorado College campus and the fine residential section of Colorado Springs, to the Fountain Colony Company for thirty-five dollars! That was the first time a potential fortune slipped through his grasp.

Mr. Love bought his brother's holdings and during the late 1860's and early 1870's drove cattle in summer and freighted to Denver in winter. In either case, the dangers were plenty since the Cheyennes and Arapahoes were making their last stand to hold their tribal lands and were using intimidation as a means to drive out the settlers.

Once, when Love and two others companions were each driving a seven team wagon through the Black Forest, they saw a band of hostile Cheyennes riding along at a distance, shadowing them. Only the fact that the wagons were covered, keeping the Indians in the dark as to the exact number of white men, prevented an attack.

When Mr. Love tells of these experiences, red depredations, calls to the log fort, and all, he never uses the word "scalp" or "massacre": the words are "skelp" and "massacray."

Needing posts with which to fence his ranch, he took a claim in Williams Canyon. In compliance with the homestead law, he built a cabin and put in the winter of 1869 there. Before spring had come, crippled from rheumatism, he was forced to walk on crutches. His shack was but a short distance from the "sody springs" at Manitou, enabling him to

bathe his afflicted leg every morning in the natural carbonate basins of bubbling mineral water now piped to the immense bathhouse, where people from the country over came to ameliorate their various ills.

It was while hobbling about on crutches that he first noticed in the side of the canyon the mouth of the cave which was later to become famous as the "Cave of the Winds." This he determined to explore when opportunity offered. As soon as he was able, he shoveled out the opening, making the access easier, and entered.

There, in the flaring light of a pine-knot torch, human eye first beheld the wonderful, grotesquely gorgeous formations of that vast cavern. Little did 'Bee' Love dream, as he gazed on the beauties of the subterranean palace and made his way in awe from chamber to chamber, that the time would come when the cave, lighted by electricity, would be visited by more than a thousand people a day. A veritable gold mine. "Better that a mine," as Mr. Love himself says, "because it never plays out."

Then, unaware of its value, he let it go. It changed hands several times before it was finally exploited. This second potential fortune also slipped through his grasp. Had he kept it, his declining years would have been easier.

After he was married in 1874, Love and his wife moved to South Park, a prairie in the mountains, and ranched there for a year. From that time Love's privation and pleasure, hardship and happiness, were shared by his wife. Three children, two girls and a boy, were born to them. Following a brief visit to Kentucky, Love returned to Colorado City and prospected a while in the neighboring hills with indifferent success. He turned again to his old occupation of ranching until about twenty years ago, when he took up work in the city.

"I never had any money I did not have to work for," are his words, and they are tinged with something akin to pride.

On Sunday, until recently, his ancient buggy might be seen regularly hitched outside the Methodist church. But his horse is gone; his cow is gone, too. Just the chickens and dog, besides the orchard and garden, remain to be taken care of.

His bulky, clock-like watch, fifty years old, says five minutes till five. "I've got a little irrigating to do — going to let it soak in for the winter," he explains as he walks off with the support of his cane.

And as I look after him, I reflect on this man who makes up none of the chronicled gilt edge, but is a unit in the solid foundation of this western empire.

FOUR WHEELS

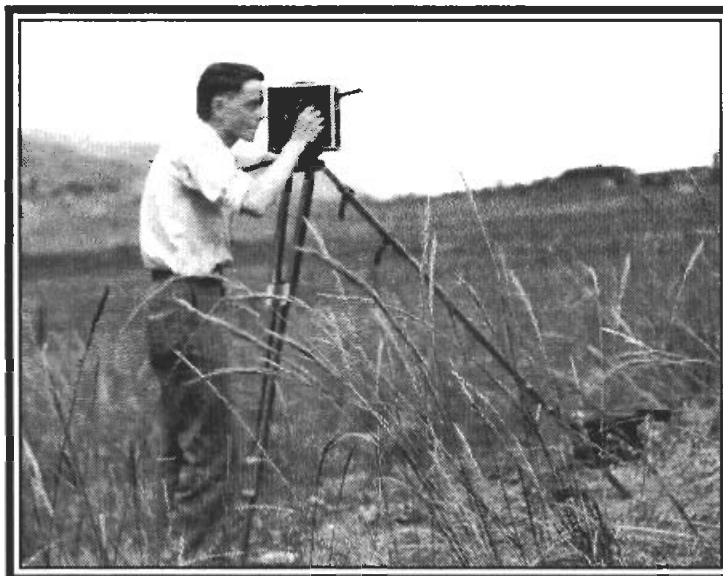
by Ira Current

The Pikes Peak Hill Climb was nothing compared to the daredevils who raced White Loaf Hill. This steep straight stretch of road accelerated the vehicles to a breathtaking speed as the drivers headed into Pikes Peak Avenue.

All that was required were four wheels. They could be salvaged from a retired baby buggy, an old coaster wagon, a small bicycle, or even from a motorcycle. And a pair of metal axles of appropriate diameter was also required. Other than that a good stiff board for a chassis, other pieces for a seat and simulated radiator. The final touch was a piece of sheet metal to serve as the fake hood to end up with our representation of the fast, powerful automobiles that raced to the summit of Pikes Peak every Labor Day.

Steering was accomplished by mounting the axle and wheels on a wooden support. The rear axle was pinned at the center, with a rope loop tied to its ends and leading to the hands of the driver. A real steering wheel with a control link mimicking that of the Ford Model T was beyond the capability of the racers down White Loaf Hill.

Our hill was at the end of Thirty-second Street in the part of Colorado City that had become West Colorado Springs. The almost barren hill had at times been pasture land and still maintained a horse



all photographs by Ira Current



or two. It served as the material from which was carved our highway. It ran, with curves and rises and falls, from near the top of the hill to the bottom, at the end of the street.

From the summit the drivers were dispatched by a flag drop one at a time. Steeper grades leading to some of the switchbacks provided accelerated speeds requiring considerable skill on the part of the drivers. Some parts of the road held horse droppings, other parts were just rough. There were stalls and accidents on some of the curves, yet some of the vehicles were not swift enough to cover the flat parts of the trail.

The timer held a watch that was started and stopped by observing flag drops at start and finish. The winners were really faster than many of the other contestants. There were minor accidents and bloody injuries, yet no first aid stations.

In time the home movie camera was brought out to make a film. Then the accidents became staged. The fast cars were documented as well as those that couldn't make it. In the end, the White Loaf Hill races provided the film that the world dared us to make.

Then there had to be speed. The race drivers migrated to the Ridge Road leading to the Garden of the Gods. This steep straight stretch of road accelerated the vehicles to a breath taking speed as the drivers headed into Pikes Peak Avenue. The only protection from disaster was provided by the young "Officials" who did their best to stop traffic as the racers veered onto the highway.

Our race track lasted a few years, and in one of the "Chug Wagon" races sponsored by the Associated Business Men of West Colorado Springs, brother Lynn was the winner in a field of 65.

(top photo on previous page) The racing crowd on White Loaf Hill. (Everett Decker at left; Richard Current seated second from left.) (middle on previous page) Irina, Grace and their mother, Anna Current, in the spectator's stand at the White Loaf Hill racing event. (below left on previous page) Ira Current using the first model of a 16mm movie camera to film the action. After submitting this story, Ira told us that he had also taken movies of the White Loaf Hill races. He transferred the 1928 movies to video and sent us a copy. Ira's modesty gave little hint to what we would see on the video. His movies are truly amazing and priceless. With background music and brother Richard Current's titles, these films would rival one of the "Our Gang" silent features. (below right on previous page) Richard Current negotiates a wide curve on the track at White Loaf Hill. (above left) Race car drivers and their attendants are ready for the faster speeds attained coasting down Ridge Road from Garden of the Gods. (above right) A "Four Wheels" vehicle is gaining speed as it races down the slope of Ridge Road.

THE LAST ASPEN LEAF

Still green with just a touch of blended gold,
A single aspen leaf defies the wind.
Its threadlike stem it seems can barely hold.
Tenaciously it clings.

Nearby soft brush of evergreen is king,
Snow laden with a bold new winter coat,
In contrast to this orphan fluttering.
Tremulously it clings.

Bronzed yellow, red and brown hailed Autumn's reign.
And tall, straight aspen cast their matchless spell.
One tiny leaf is struggling to remain.
Still faltering, it clings.

When springtime closes in and warms the ground,
New growth of foliage demands its way.
This leaf must yield to those which will abound.
No longer does it cling.

by Maloa Read

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

With Jan Knox (our faithful "West Side Memories" researcher) away most of this summer for some much deserved rest and family visits, we are printing her submissions for the month of August that were not used in our previous issue. Many readers have also asked us to list the source and dates of the items used and we're pleased to begin including those this month.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO August 1897

¶ Every Saturday and Sunday the Colorado Midland railway will sell round trip tickets to Cripple Creek from Colorado City for \$3.25. (*Colorado City Iris* - 8/7)

¶ The Pike's Peak Mineral Water company's goods are the most refreshing of any on the market. Their wild cherry tonic is a household beverage. All orders receive prompt attention and delivery. Orders by mail solicited. (*Colorado City Iris* - 8/14)

¶ Miss Everhardt has again very kindly extended the hospitality of her grounds, opposite post office, to the Colorado Midland Band and to the Ladies' Guild of the Church of the Good Shepherd. This evening, therefore, the band will serve ice cream and cake on these grounds to all who desire to take advantage of the opportunity. Everyone is invited, and it is hoped that a general, social time will be enjoyed. Ice cream, 15 cents. (*Colorado City Iris* - 8/14)

¶ Colorado City Hose No. 1 is getting its team in fine form for the Fireman's tournament at Grand Junction, September 7. The company which beats them, barring accidents, will make swift time. (*Colorado City Iris* - 8/28)

¶ Married at Webber hall, in Colorado Springs, at 5 o'clock Wednesday evening, August 11, 1897, Mr. Simon Krantz and Miss Rosa Finn, both of this city. Rabbi Hillkowitz, of

Denver officiating. This was the first Jewish wedding ever celebrated in El Paso county and the ceremony was both solemn and interesting. (*Colorado City Iris* - 8/14)

¶ J.M. Wilbur, late of Alamosa, Colo., has leased the blacksmith shop at the corner of Fifth street and Washington avenue and has built an addition to the building. Mr. Wilbur is a wagon and carriage builder and is a first class workman. He will conduct a general blacksmithing shop and carriage and wagon factory and should receive every encouragement from our citizens. (*Colorado City Iris* - 8/28)

¶ On Wednesday evening, a big wagon train left this city for Yuma county Arizona. The train was in charge of T.S. Clow, the veteran saw mill man who goes to that territory in the employ of Rio Colorado Gold Extraction company of this city. There was 12 head of horses and 5 wagons in the outfit. The property is owned by the above named company and will be used to open up the company's properties and haul ore from the mines to the mill which will be erected on the Colorado river by the company. (*Colorado City Iris* - 8/28)

¶ The Barker House at Manitou has been sold for \$35,000 to a St. Louis company. (*Colorado City Iris* - 8/28)

¶ The Teller Institute and Colorado Midland bands have been engaged to play at Grand Junction on Peach Day. A great hose tournament is promised also. (*Colorado City Iris* - 8/28)

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO August 1922

¶ (*In our previous issue, this article was placed in the One Hundred Years Ago column in error. This story ran in the Colorado Springs Gazette in August 1922.*) Now comes Spencer Penrose, donor of the famous Penrose trophy awarded each year to the winner

of the Pikes Peak hill climb classic, and enters a car for the big race that will make some of the fast entries from the eastern factories look to their laurels when the race is run Labor day. The big Pierce Arrow car which has been used by Mr. Penrose for the last year or two will be stripped and cut down for the race. It will be piloted by Harry McMillan, who has been the Penrose chauffeur for many years. McMillan is an experienced driver and thoroughly familiar with the grades on the peak. Another last minute entry that came in yesterday, was from H.J. West of Denver, who is to drive his own Lincoln in the big event of the day for cars of more than 300 cubic inches displacement. This is the first Lincoln car to be entered in the Pikes Peak race, and the fans are going to watch its performance with considerable interest. (*Colorado Springs Gazette* - 8/10)

¶ That the Allingham Candy company, which negotiated for the purchase of the old city hall in Colorado City from the city council some time ago, will not engage in business on as extensive a scale as was at first promised, was the statement made in city council meeting yesterday morning by City Manager A. M. Wilson, who recommended that the building be leased to the company for a year instead of going ahead with the sale on the terms proposed. The company promises to install \$50,000 worth of machinery and employ at least 50 person in the candy plant. The city attorney was instructed to draw up a lease as recommended by the city manager, because of the deposit already made by the company. (*Colorado Springs Gazette* - 8/9)

¶ The greatest pageant ever staged in the Springs was seen yesterday by a crowd estimated at 50,000 persons. Even though no prizes were offered for the best float, Colorado Springs believed so thoroughly in the idea of the "Passing of the West" that no effort or expense was spared to make them

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

as beautiful and historically correct as possible in portraying the periods which they were intended to represent. The floats and participants were arranged to pass in the chronological order of historical events, starting with the cliff dwellers and concluding with the modern era which many of the living pioneers did most to start. (*Colorado Springs Gazette* - 8/16)

At 10 a.m., October 10, 1852, a train consisting of an engine and a few day coaches, the first run on the new Rock Island road, left Chicago for Joliet, the terminus of the line at that time. At 10 a.m., October 10, 1922, 70 years after, another train will enact this first run. The train will be the Rocky Mountain Limited from Chicago to Colorado Springs and Denver, pulled by a huge engine of the latest type and containing baggage cars, day coaches, parlor cars, Pullmans, and a dining car, equipped with all the modern conveniences of travel. At all points along the Rock Island line, the seventieth anniversary of the operation of its first passenger train will be celebrated. (*Colorado Springs Gazette* - 8/28)

FIFTY YEARS AGO August 1947

Carl Dufford, 1617 West Kiowa St., owner and operator of the Sanitary Laundry and Dry Cleaning Co., 2517 West Colorado avenue, and Laundry Engineer, Roy Hines, 31 Manitou avenue, were burned about the face, hands and ankles about 1:30 o'clock Monday afternoon when a boiler near which they were working blew up in the rear of the establishment. Fire companies 3 and 5 answered the call and reported that the cause of the explosion was unknown, since not a great deal of steam pressure was up at the time of the accident. (*Colorado Springs Independent* - 8/7)

West Siders who pass up George Miller's band concert at Bancroft Park on Thursday evening are really missing a musical treat. (*Colorado Springs Independent* - 8/7)

Surprise! The employees of the Golden Cycle mill received an unexpected raise in wages on August 1. The miners in the Cripple Creek district also were given a substantial raise. (*Colorado Springs Independent* - 8/7)

A deal was closed last Friday whereby the Cole Drug store at 2512 West Colorado avenue changed hands, it being sold by Palmer Peterson to H. H. Cooper of Ness City, Kansas, and William H. Lidke of this city. The name has been changed to the Cooper-Lidke Drug company. Mr. Cooper is a business man of Ness City. Mr. Lidke came here in 1941 from Denver, was in the armed service in 1943-45. He is a pharmacist, will manage the drug store, is married, has two daughters and resides at 1711 West Bijou street. About 50 years ago, the late James McIntosh erected the brick building and moved the drug store to its present location. C.H. Cole owned the store for a number of years. (*Colorado Springs Independent* - 8/14)

The laundry boiler explosion last week caused a traffic congestion between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-sixth streets on West Colorado avenue the like of which has not been seen over here in many years. In the old days some serious fires did occur in wooden buildings. There were several blazes in what is now the 2500 block, one being where the laundry is now located. Others, where the Moore warehouse and free parking lot are. One of the most serious fires in Old Town in the last 40 years was when the Ridenour & Rettiger livery stable, where the one-story brick building just east of McDonald & Huff's now is, burned. About 30 head of horses were lost. In the back end of the building the dead bodies lay against each other. The building was a total loss. The dead animals were hauled to a draw just west of Ramona, which is still known to old-timers as Dead Horse Gulch. (*Colorado Springs Independent* - 8/14)

Martin Drake, who is not quite as old as Old Town, is working part time at the Colorado Springs National Bank,

following a hip ailment which caused him to use a walking stick. Martin is past the three score and ten years, most of which he has spent in Old Town, and he isn't going to quit for some time more. (*Colorado Springs Independent* - 8/14)

The recent incorporation of the H. and H. Mining and Milling company, which will work the old Standard Mill dump in old Colorado City, brings back memories of happy days in Old Town. Forty years ago lights never went out in the Standard mill. Several hundred men were employed, working three shifts. It was one of the busiest places hereabouts. The mill dump, covering about 40 acres, has been worked some other times since the mill ceased operations in 1912. Likely there is considerable gold and other minerals in the dump, as in the early days extracting was not as modern as now. The incorporators of the H. and H. company are L. S. Harner, for many years superintendent of the Golden Cycle mill; A. V. Hagen of the Hagen Fuel and Feed company, and Edward J. Nugent, for years an employee of the Golden Cycle company. His father was street commissioner of Colorado City many years ago. The Colorado-Philadelphia Reduction company began operations in 1896, and was taken over by the U. S. Reduction and Refining company in 1904. Operations ceased in 1912, following which the buildings were torn down, except the office and storerooms, both brick. The Colorado Midland railroad spur to the mill was also removed. The mill property changed ownership several times after operations ceased. When the Standard mill was at its height, the Telluride, now the Golden Cycle was built. Later the Portland was built southeast of the Golden Cycle. Two railroads, the Midland Terminal and Cripple Creek Short Line, brought ore from the mining district. The wagon road to the Standard mill dump runs south from about 3021 West Colorado avenue. It was know as Chlorination avenue.

OUR GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

The Grand Opening Ceremony for our History Center on August 13th was a big success. President **Bob Heinich** delivered opening remarks and introduced our guests and speakers. Most of the dedicated members and generous benefactors responsible for the founding of our society and the successful completion and opening of our beautiful museum and research center were in attendance to honor the day.

Charter Members **Kay Arnold**, **Vera Chambon**, **Virginia Cox**, **Lucille Damico**, **Dave Hughes** and **Agnes Johnson** were present. Charter Members who were not able to attend and were greatly missed were **Margaret Bofenkamp** and **Isabelle Mosley**, who both now live in Oregon; **Flora Belle Hull** and **Leon Young** who were ill; **Sally Brawner**, **Barbara Keller** and **Ralph Conner**. Charter Member **Bertha Chilcott** recently passed away. OCCHS Presidents there were **Dave Hughes**, **Agnes Johnson**, **Lucille Cunningham** and **Robert Heinich**. President **Joyce Johns** was unable to attend because of illness. Our first society president, **Ramon Castillo**, could not be located and President **John Keller** has passed away.

"Jedge" Baldwin spoke next and his resemblance to Dave Hughes was remarkable. The Judge spoke of Colorado City and the development of our History Center to preserve that history with the museum, research center and our computer room which will carry the Westside's legacy into the 21st Century.

Colorado Springs City Councilman, **Randy Purvis**, graciously and eloquently spoke on the legacy of Colorado City and how its pioneers would be honored by this museum that officially opened on the 138th anniversary of the founding of the town. Councilman Purvis spoke on behalf of Colorado Springs Vice Mayor and OCCHS Charter Member, **Leon Young**, who was scheduled to speak, but was unable to attend the Grand Opening because of illness.

Our Past President, **Lucille Cunningham**, spoke beautifully about the phases of development to build our society and the church that houses our museum. She thanked the many benefactors who have been instrumental in the completion of all the phases we have achieved to date. The amount of grants, underwriting and donations from our members is overwhelming.

The audience was seated on 24th Street which was

closed for the event. After the presentations of the speakers, Judge Baldwin invited Councilman Randy Purvis to join all of our Presidents in officially cutting the ribbon leading the way to our front door.

Over 350 visitors stopped by the History Center that day

to view our building, exhibits and website. **Betty Baker**, **Sue Idleman** and **Jan Knox** supplied the wonderful refreshment table. **Jennifer Clark** guided our visitors through the "Red Light District" exhibit, while **Lindsey Clark** showed off our web pages. Jennifer and Lindsey are the daughters of **Becky Hughes Clark** and granddaughters of **Dave and Patsy Hughes**. Becky was the very first Treasurer for the OCCHS. In fact, Becky had to leave the

very first meeting of our Society early because baby Jennifer was crying. It was wonderful to see the efforts of our society's pioneers come full circle.

We were very pleased that family members of Luther McKnight were able to be there. Luther's cousin, **Leslie Atkins**, and his daughters, **Barbara Vuillemin** and **Jane Weiss** were very pleased with what we've done to house Luther's collections.

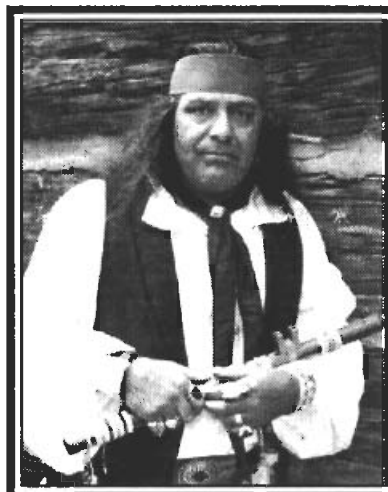
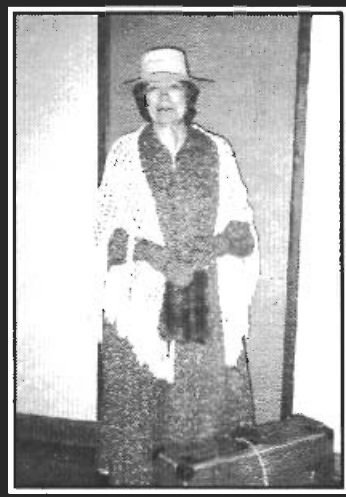
Our Founder's Day Celebration continued the following weekend with a craft fair and programs in Bancroft Park. Rain unfortunately cut the day short on Sunday.

Kay Arnold was wonderful as Aunt Kaya in a one-woman theatrical performance. Aunt Kaya told of her wagon train trip to Colorado City, along with the cooking

methods and grooming habits of the 19th Century. Kay also presented Aunt Kaya to our members for one final performance at our October General Meeting. It was a thoroughly enjoyable program.

Eddie Three Eagles was the featured performer at our Founder's Day Celebration. His Native American music and chanting filled the park and delighted all our visitors. Eddie was certainly the highlight of the weekend.

Thank you to all of our members and volunteers who worked so hard to make our Grand Opening and Founder's Day celebrations so wonderful and perfect. Our volunteers who worked on all of our summer events did a marvelous job. This was our History Center's first summer with its doors open to the public. We had a very successful summer thanks to all of you. All indications are that we're on our way to reaching all of our goals.



(above left) Jennifer Clark on Founder's Day, (above right) Kay Arnold as Aunt Kaya, and (center) Eddie Three Eagles.

Back To History — con't from page 1

Artifact Accessioning Committee

Current volunteers include Liz Geiss, Clarice Munro, Marion Steavenson and Betty Baker. Chuck Geiss is building a wonderful storage system for our artifacts. The committee is well on its way to unpacking and organizing the items. We need volunteers to help match the accession sheets with the artifacts, clean the items, and place them in storage for easy access. Call 636-1225 if you can help three hours a week.

Books and Documents Accessioning Committee

Betsy Evans has been unpacking and cataloging our books for our Research Library. We have a wonderful collection. It's a big job and one more volunteer would be welcome.

Book & Gift Shop Committee

This is where our volunteers shine. The shifts are 2½ hours. Jan Knox has accumulated an amazing inventory of books for us. Thelma Williams, who used to own Little Corner of the World in Cripple Creek, has been donating many, many items from her store. Leland Feitz has been most generous in stocking our shop with donated Little London Press books. The fun part of this position is meeting all our visitors. Call Bev Disch at 634-5023 to volunteer.

Education Committee

These appointed educators, historians and collectors will be available for questions from other committees. It will help the Exhibit Committee determine the best way to present an exhibit and aid the Accessioning Committees in decisions of accessioning and deaccessioning. They will help the Research Committee find sources and guide the Interview

Committee with questions for their subjects. The committee will work with the schools to develop education programs.

Events Planning Committee

These volunteers will plan and implement the historical and fundraising programs for the History Center. If you enjoy a variety of activities, this committee is for you. Call Jan Knox at 689-2355.

Exhibits Committee

Mel McFarland chairs this group of volunteers who plan and prepare our exhibits. Our exhibits need to periodically change to keep our visitors returning. Call Mel at 533-1311.

Horticultural Committee

If you have a green thumb and enjoying working in the dirt, join Alice Mayfield, Judith Yarrow, Carol Stody, Karen Neece, Kay Arnold, Annette Whitehorne and Vivian LeFebvre in designing and implementing the landscaping around our Center. See more about the demonstration gardens they're planning on page 14. Call Alice at 633-3423.

Interviews Committee

This committee is just forming to begin recording interviews with long-time residents of Old Colorado City to preserve their memories. We plan to audio and video tape these interviews for research and future use in exhibits and our website.

Maintenance Committee

With the high volume of public traffic through our Center, *con't on back page*

Current Members — con't from page 5

Since Ira was his mother's first child, he was born at Beth El Hospital in Colorado Springs. He would have preferred Colorado City on his birth certificate, but a hospital birth was always wise to insure against complications with a first born. He attended Arensdale School and remembers his teacher, Jennie Keyser. He developed an amateur interest in chemistry while at Whittier and used to buy his chemicals from Ferd. F. Kock at what was then 505 Colorado Avenue. He then went to Bancroft School until ninth grade when he was part of the first ninth grade to head off to Colorado Springs High School.

Ira was always the most energetic one, according to Maloa, and evidently one with a memory for details. He remembers Ralph Hubbard's general science class at Colorado Springs High School; William H. Steele's physics class, chemistry under Willet R. Willis, and mechanical drawing from Mr. Albrecht.

Ira was helping to raise tomatoes, mushrooms, roses and carnations at the E.R. Ripley & Sons green houses when Orrie Stewart asked him to work at Stewart's photography and photo engraving operation in Colorado Springs during the summers. He earned his degree in chemistry from the

University of Colorado and in 1934 went to work for Agfa Ansco, the oldest photographic manufacturer in the country. Ira has had many honors in the photographic field and has authored and co-authored many books on photographic chemistry including, **Photographic Color Printing — Theory and Practice**. His photography has appeared in more than a dozen one-man exhibitions, and he has been part of over thirty other shows. Ira was inducted into the Palmer/Colorado Springs High School Hall of Fame in 1987.

It's no wonder that the photographs from Ira Current are so remarkable and priceless. As you will read in this issue of *West Word*, Ira's memories are priceless, too. His stories are becoming a part of our historical documentation of Old Colorado City. "Four Wheels", on page 8, documents the wonderful way kids found safe and wholesome enjoyment growing up in Old Colorado City.

Ira is now retired in Rochester, NY; Dick is retired and living in South Natick, MA. Sadly, Lynn Current died at the age of nineteen in 1934. Maloa still lives in the family house on Pikes Peak Avenue, while Eugene lives in Arizona, and Irma and Grace live here in Colorado Springs.

Bake Sales so successful. And thank you to all the volunteers who worked in the History Center and the cabin. Our two Bake Sales brought us over \$215.

We had our share of bad weather during the summer, especially on the days when we held our Craft Fairs. Still, we were able to raise over \$1200 to add to our general funds account thanks to the crafters. Thanks to **Jan Knox** for setting up the Craft Fairs.

Field of Dreams

We're very proud of our charter member **Leon Young**. On Saturday, October 18th, the **Leon Young Ballfield Complex** was officially dedicated. The park was completed with voter approved funds from excess tax revenues and named in honor of Leon for his significant contributions to Colorado Springs. Congratulations to Leon.

Third Annual B&B Tour

Mark your calendar and send for your tickets now! **The Third Annual Old Colorado City Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour** is under way! This is your opportunity to take a peek inside six well-known Westside area Bed & Breakfast Inns all decked out for the Christmas season. All of Inns have had renovations completed this year and we welcome the Old Town Guesthouse to this year's tour. Located at 115 S. 26th Street, the newly completed Old Town Guesthouse was built on the site of Colorado City's early city hall, fire station and jail (and the old mattress factory) after the original building was totally destroyed by fire some years ago. Welcome Kaye and David.

The Awarenest Victorian B&B Inn, Holden House — 1902 B&B Inn, Old Town Guesthouse, Our Heart's Inn Old Colorado City, The Painted Lady B&B and Wedgewood Cottage B&B will open their doors on December 7th from 2:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M for this excellent tour. For the third year, the tour proceeds will benefit the Old Colorado City History Center. The proceeds from last year's tour paid for the custom oak furniture now in our Research Library at the Center.

You will be able to purchase your tickets at the Old Colorado City History Center, Kris Kringle's and any of the participating B&B Inns. Tickets purchased before December 5th are \$10 per person; after December 5th and at the door are \$12. You may also order your tickets by mailing your check to the Old Colorado City History Center, 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319. For more information call (719)636-1225 or **Karla Hefferan** at (719)630-8241 or **Valerie Maslowski** at (719)473-3165.

Several Artifacts Stolen

Police are continuing to investigate the theft of several items and artifacts that were stolen from the Old Colorado City Historical Society about two years ago. Our Board of Directors worked closely with the police providing them with the descriptions and photographs of the items. At the investigators request, the Board has not announced the theft

until now because of the ongoing inquiry. They have also requested that we do not announce the items taken. Many of the items stolen were not pertinent to Old Colorado City's history ... some were.

The theft occurred around the time that we had to move our artifacts to the History Center for insurance reasons. At that time our History Center did not yet have its security alarm system and our building was still under construction for its renovation.

We were very fortunate to have three boxes of items located and returned. The police continue to search for the remaining items.

Fall Craft Fair and Bake Sale

The Old Colorado City History Center will sponsor an indoor **Craft Fair & Bake Sale** on November 15th and 16th at the History Center. We're clearing out the main exhibit room to get as many talented crafters as we can to display their work. Those great bake sales items made by our members will be for sale in the Research Library. This will be a great time to purchase unique items for those hard-to-buy-for people on your holiday list. The History Center will be open from 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. on both days. We hope to see you all there!

The History Center Darkroom

Bob and Christine Heinrich have donated the funds necessary for us to proceed in building our photographic dark room. We will soon be able to effectively handle the many requests for copies of our archival photographs and reduce the cost of preparing our photographs to exhibit. This will allow us the capability to make archival photographic copies in-house. Our heartfelt thanks to Bob and Chris.

The Herb Committee Begins Planning

Our Herb & Horticultural Committees has been meeting to discuss and plan the landscaping and education project that will landscape our History Center grounds. Their long term plan is to place demonstration herb gardens around our building and back patio. Placards will be place to identify the herb and its historical significance. **Alice Mayfield** and **Judith Yarrow** are co-chairing the committee with members **Karen Neece, Annette Whitehorne, Carol Stody, Kay Arnold** and **Vivian LeFebvre**.

The committee has formed their goals and mission statement and has begun the creative part of designing the displays and selecting the herbs. They also are planning to do their own fundraising projects to supply the funds to finance the landscaping. The same products we use to clean our museum will now be available in our Book & Gift Shop with the History Center receiving a portion of each sale for the Herb and Horticultural Committee. The cleaning products are made by Geo International, who developed the environmentally safe products to clean up the Exxon Valdez disaster. The History Center is kept beautiful and we're a "Green Business", too.

25 Towns in Colorado Mark 100th Birthdays

McKnight Collection - OCCIS Archives



Looking to the northeast over Colorado City in the early 1860's.

*Colorado City was among the early towns that appeared in the territories that became Colorado. We are always asked how early Colorado City was founded compared to other towns. The article transcribed here, which originally appeared in the **Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph** on Sunday, May 17, 1959, provides some answers.*

Old Colorado City - now absorbed by Colorado Springs but still with an identity of its own as one of the state's oldest communities and the site of the first territorial capital - will celebrate its own 100th birthday along with the celebration of the Rush to the Rockies Centennial this year.

Colorado City is one of 25 towns and settlements in Colorado which are 100 years old this year. Some of the 25 have changed their names or moved their location in the past century, and a few have changed both but are entitled to a centennial birthday because of a demonstrable continuity to their settlement.

Oldest towns of all in Colorado are San Luis, San Pablo and San Acacio on the Culebra River in Costilla County, whose foundings date back to 1851, 1852 and 1853. Pueblo, Fort Garland and Loveland (once Namaqua) are 101 years old this year.

Some of the towns whose history can be traced back 100 years are hard put to earn the designation of towns nowadays. Gold Hill in Boulder County, for instance, is only a summer resort now. The same is true of Gilpin County's Black Hawk, Central City, Russell Gulch and Nevadaville, which like Boulder and Gold Hill were settled by miners in the summer of 1859. Nevadaville has a summer population of one, and Russell Gulch inhabitants are few.

Idaho Springs (once Jackson's Diggings), Dumont (founded as Mill City) and Georgetown (once Elizabethtown) are Clear Creek County's centennial communities. Jefferson County has Golden, Bergen Park,

Littleton and Sheridan-Englewood.

Park County has three contenders, Fairplay, Alma and Jefferson. Fairplay was founded by dissenters from Terryall who had disliked the squabbling over conflicting claims in the first camp. Alma, successor to Buckskin Joe and Laurette, traces its lineage back a century, but not in exactly the same spot. Jefferson is the successor to Jefferson City.

Other centennial settlements are scattered in other parts of the state. There is Canon City, founded by early residents of Pueblo, and Breckenridge in Summit County. Fort Lyon dates back to 1859 when Bent's New Fort

was purchased by the U.S. and later named for the first Union general killed in the Civil War.

Julesburg, altho located in four different spots, has had the same name for a century. Then there is Fort Lupton, which originated on the camp site and stage station of an abandoned adobe fort used in 1859 by gold seekers.

Sedalia in Douglas County was founded by John H. Craig who settled in Happy Canyon in 1859. The town was first called Round Corral. Hot Sulfur Springs in Grand County was first settled by 1859 prospectors who called the town West Saratoga after the New York spa.

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Application

New Membership Renewal

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Benefits of membership include your free yearly subscription to our *West Word* newsletter and a 10% discount on most items in the Book & Gift Shop and special programs.

Make checks payable to:

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

cleaning the exhibits, the book & gift shop, the hardwood floors and the restrooms twice a week has become a necessity. The maintenance work inside and out is always growing. Chuck Cobb is handling our outside maintenance and indoor handy work. Bev Millett is doing a wonderful job cleaning the Center once a week. Call 636-1225 if you can help them a few hours a week.

Membership Committee

Our membership dues account for 20% of our operating budget. Currently, we have over sixty members with lapsed dues. This committee will call or write overdue members as reminders. These volunteers will also send thank you notes and membership cards to all joining and renewing members. If you can help, call Doris Morland at 633-5361.

Newsletter Committee

You may have noticed that this *West Word* is the October issue and you're getting it in November. Our monthly newsletter is one of the most popular features of society membership. It presents the news of the History Center and our Society. It also features many items on the history of Old Colorado City. The publication of our newsletter has been erratic lately and we apologize for that. Currently, the *West Word* is being handled by just a few people. Jan Knox researches and locates the historical items for Westside Memories and other stories. She also shares duties with Paul Idleman in writing other articles. Paul plans, writes and designs each newsletter. Ed Bathke scans the photographs and we receive some stories and articles from various members. Computer troubles with Paul, compatibility with the printer's computer, Paul's additional duties as Director and just plain old writer's block can severely delay getting *West Word* out on time. If you enjoy writing, research, photography or graphic arts, you'll love the newspaper life with *West Word*. We really need someone who's eager to learn desktop

publishing. *West Word* is composed using Quark Xpress and Adobe Photoshop. We turn in a computer disk and it's printed from that. We never see a hard copy of the newsletter until it's all done and folded. Call Paul at 636-1225.

Photo Accessioning Committee

Ray Campbell, Karen Anderson, Dave Bennett and Mark Hightower have been doing a fantastic job accessioning, preserving and filing our photograph collection. We have over 14,000 photos and they have filed about one third of them. Knowledge of our area will greatly help in identifying the unlabeled photos. Call 636-1225.

Programs & Events Committee

Sets up and decorates for events. Cleans up and puts everything away after the programs and events.

Publicity Committee

Prepares and distributes all information about our society, History Center and activities to the newspapers, radio, television and the public. We need about six or seven volunteers for this committee.

Research Committee

We're already receiving quite a number of requests to research questions. We plan to provide this service to the public for a donation to our society. Research tasks will also be needed for exhibits, newsletter stories and website information. Call Paul at 636-1225.

Technology Committee

David Hughes, LaDonna Gunn, Mid Kolstad, Dave Wolverton, Sara Mock, Clark Curtis and Paul Idleman are currently working on this committee. They are assembling our history, operations and inventory, and designing the look of our website. This is one committee that our out-of-town members with computers might be interested in. Call LaDonna at (719)636-1225.

Tracy & LaDonna Gunn
65 Vee Lane
P.O. Box 146
Windsor, CO 81253

1998 / 8

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

