

DECEMBER 1998

# TRAVELING THE CHEROKEE TRAIL

## Lee Whiteley Presents History Center Program

Lee Whiteley captivated an audience of about fifty-five people at our last General Meeting and Program held November 13th at the History Center. Lee spoke on the history of the Cherokee Trail, also called the Jimmy Camp Trail.

Before the Colorado gold rush, the Cherokee Trail was the primary wagon road across the Arkansas-Platte Divide. The route was also known as Jimmy's Camp Road or Jimmy Camp Trail and was a branch of the "Trapper's Trail". He presented a 15-minute map orientation, detailing the route from Bent's Fort to Fort Bridger. Lee concentrated his talk for us on the trail in El Paso County and followed by showing a 30-minute slide presentation. His photos, taken at many locations along the route, showed remnants of the road that still survive.

Lee Whiteley is a fourth generation

Coloradan, born and raised in Englewood. His great-grandparents homesteaded north of Peyton on the Cherokee Trail in 1870. Lee and his wife, Jane, currently reside in Littleton. He is a member of the Oregon-California Trails Association, the Santa Fe Trail Association, the Ghost Town Club of Colorado, the Rocky Mountain Railroad Club and the Denver Posse of the Westerners.

Our next program on January 8th will be a slide program on the history of Old Colorado City presented by Paul Idleman. The History Center will open at 10:00 a.m. for refreshments and visitation. The slide program will begin at 11:00 a.m. after a short membership meeting. Author and historian, Doris Wolfe, will present our February 12th program on pioneer travel to Fountain, Colorado. Details in the next issue of *West Word*.



**BOBBY UNSER  
COMES HOME  
TO ACCEPT  
OCCHS HONOR**

*story & photos on page 4*

*4th Annual*  
**Old Colorado City**  
Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour  
December 6th

*story on page 9*

# Old Colorado City Historical Society

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

## WEST WORD

VOLUME 13 DECEMBER 1998 NUMBER 6

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

Funds from a Lifetime Membership are placed into a Fee Penalty/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	Betsy Evans .....	635-4782
Treasurer	Don Kallaus .....	630-0322
	Beverly Disch .....	634-5023
	Jack Ekstrom .....	473-7515
	Gordon Gray .....	630-8238
	Jerry Jekel .....	380-7010
	Agnes Johnson .....	633-8040
	Mel McFarland .....	533-1311

### MEETINGS

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

Please phone the Old Colorado City History Center at 636-1225 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. We will have to charge you for luncheon reservations if cancelled after the deadline.

### Next General Meeting

January 8, 1999

at the History Center

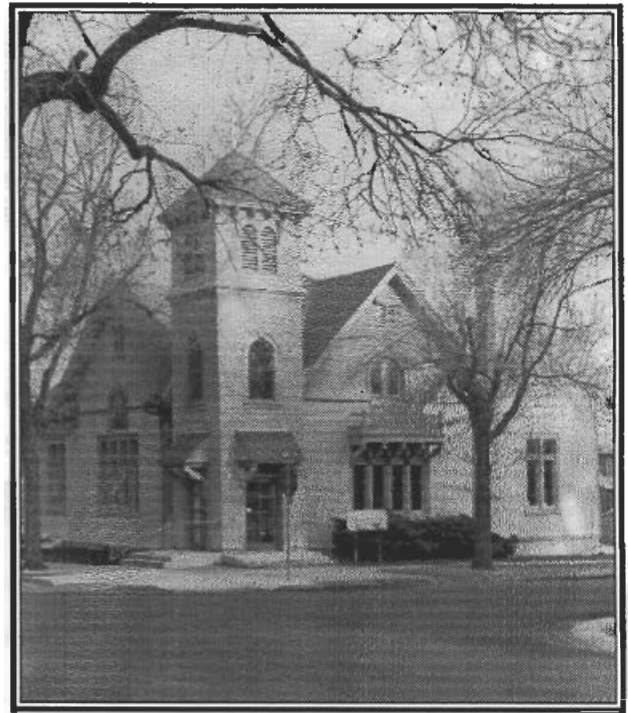


photo by Don Kallaus

Explore the REAL History!

at the

## OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORY CENTER

1 South 24th Street

(the corner of Pikes Peak & 24th Street)

(719)636-1225

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OCCHS web site is co-sponsored by The National Science Foundation

# MAILBOX

Dear OCCHS,

I grew up on the Westside of Colorado Springs at 2913 W. Boulder (which is now Uintah) where my father and mother operated a dry cleaning establishment - Foust Cleaners - in the 20's and 30's. The buildings which housed the business were pounded together by Dad. Since he had no expertise at building, the sheds were crude, but workwise.

E.J.Foust (Eli Jacob - sometimes Elmer) and Lillian Johnson Foust made an adequate living for the family which included Marjorie Mae (born 1917) and Betty Louise (born 1919).

Dad was known as "The Mayor of Poverty Gulch". He was a friendly, caring man who was always happy to supply nickels and dimes to neighborhood children who needed tablets, pencils and lunch. Mother, a former grade (school) teacher, spent her evenings supervising the homework of nearby children, two of whom became grade school teachers themselves - Alice L. Welter and Betty Foust.

Betty Foust Smith  
Montgomery, AL

*Thank you, Betty, for sharing your memories with us. Betty and her sister, Marjorie, are new OCCHS members. Betty has become a Lifetime Member with us. We welcome both of the Foust sisters and hope you'll keep writing.*

Dear OCCHS,

I am doing research on my family history and ran across your webpage on Colorado history. My great grandfather was Frank Cobb born December 2, 1857 and died April 16, 1936 in Denver.

I was wondering if you have any information of the Cobbs or Frank Cobb and if this was the same one mentioned in your (web) page.

Regards,  
Steve Cobb  
scobb@usaor.net

*We have been e-mailing Steve to keep him updated on what we know about Frank Cobb. The Frank M. Cobb we are familiar with in Colorado City history was a member of the Lawrence, Kansas prospecting party who spent time in this area on their way to the new gold fields at Cherry Creek. They arrived in Pike's Peak region in July 1858. Cobb, John D. Miller and August Voorhees ascended Pike's Peak on July 8, 1858. Cobb started a grocery in the Denver area and started another grocery in the new town of Colorado City when it was founded in 1859. It's very likely, Steve Cobb's great-great-grandfather was the Colorado City pioneer, Frank M. Cobb. His great-grandfather was but one year old when Frank M. Cobb scaled Pikes Peak. We have provided Steve with this information so he can check with other family members.*

Dear OCCHS,

Betsy and I are relatively new members of OCCHS, so have only seen a couple of copies of the West Word

newsletter. Our reaction to what we have seen is very favorable and we support (strongly) the general approach of a multi-page document as the monthly publication, subject only to whatever financial constraints may exist.

We are also impressed by your Web Site, and how well it has grown in the past few months.

Jack & Betsy Shoup  
Colorado Springs, CO  
jps@oldcolo.com

*Thank you to Jack and Betsy and all of our members who gave us feedback on our West Word newsletter. It's size and schedule were the main issues and our members have indicated that they are generally pleased with the effort. Most helpful were comments from our new member, Pam Franklin. Pam is the production manager for Springs Style Magazine, the brilliantly designed guide to Colorado Springs. Her suggestions should be evident in this issue of West Word. Thank you for everyone's input.*

Dear OCCHS,

My name is Tammy Ray. I have an old photograph of engine 27 dated August 9, 1916 — I think — not sure of the year. The photo says "115 mile wildflower excursion \$1.00". Lots of people around the train. The reason I am so interested, I have an old photo of my great-great-grandmother's brother, Kit McCoy. He has on a brakeman's hat and uniform. The picture was taken in Denver, Colorado. I want to learn about this man and if this other picture may be related to him and his job. Can you help?

Thanks,  
Tammy  
Tamrik1472@aol.com

*We've forwarded Tammy's inquiry to Midland historian, Mel McFarland, and have placed it in our History Conference Room on our website to see if we can help her find some answers.*

Dear OCCHS,

Hello. I am Victoria Blatt. I am a ninth grader at Tallmadge High School, Ohio. I am doing a research paper on Pikes Peak. I found your site the most informative and interesting. For my research paper, we need someone on the internet who knows about our topic to tell us something about it. I choose you guys because you really knew your stuff. I would appreciate it if you could send me some little known facts, or anything else you know about Pikes Peak. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Blatt  
hancal@sssnet.com

*We were only too happy to help Victoria with her research paper. We were able to e-mail many antidotes, facts and legends about Pikes Peak found in Paul Idleman's lecture, "Challenges on Pikes Peak" to her. We asked her to let us know how her paper turned out and what grade she received.*

# FIRST FAMILIES OF COLORADO CITY

## THE UNSERS

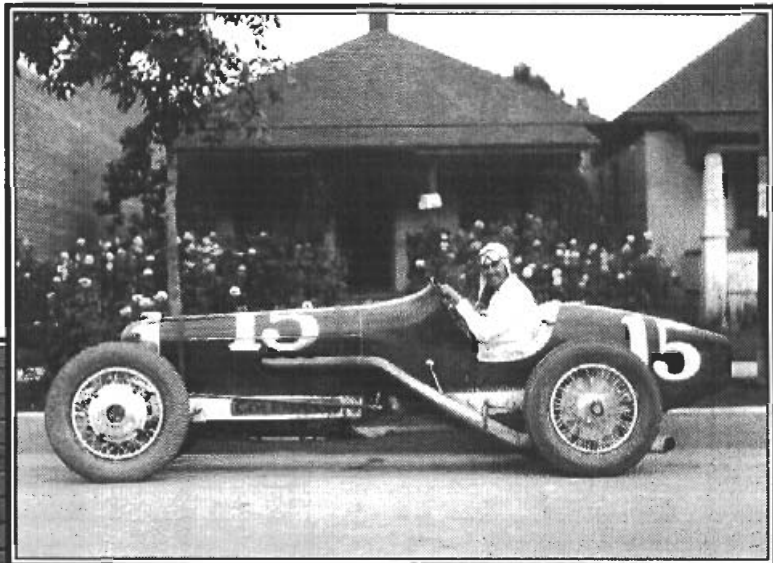


photo courtesy of the Pikes Peak Hill Climb Museum

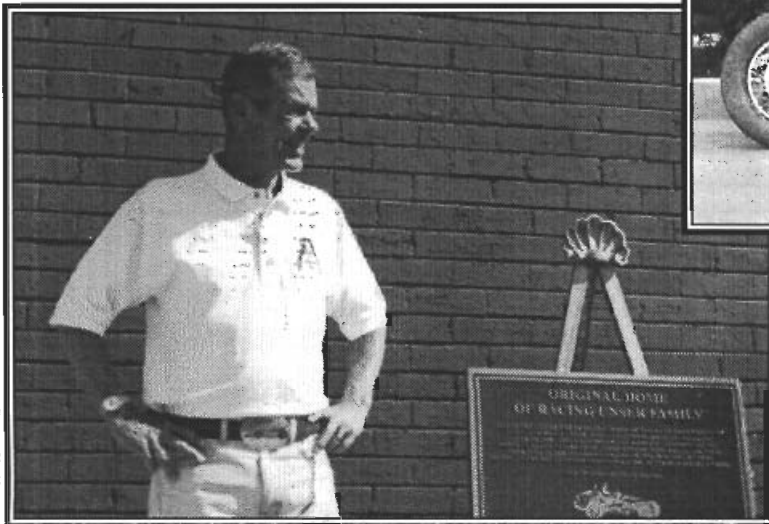


photo by Don Kallhaus

The "Old Man of the Mountain" (above), Louie Unser poses his "Coleman Special" in front of the Unser home at 2718 W. Colorado Avenue in 1930. An addition to Surplus City is now on that property. (left) Bobby Unser, representing the entire Unser Family, flew in from Albuquerque to help unveil the plaque. Bobby was visibly moved and thanked the Old Colorado City Historical Society for honoring his family in the Unser's "home town". (below) OCCHS President, Robert Heinrich; Bobby Unser; History Center Director, Paul Idleman; and OCCHS Vice President, Dave Hughes.

The history of Old Colorado City is rich and colorful. Its full history has yet be published. The Old Colorado City History Center has been learning that Colorado City is much more than those pivotal historical moments that have been published; such as it's founding, losing the capital, the Indian skirmishes, the good side and the bad side, and the tunnels. The story of Colorado City cannot be told without the stories of its people, individually and collectively.

Old Colorado City has a spirit of struggle and pride that does not exist in any other Colorado Springs neighborhood. That spirit has been evident from the town's pioneer founding right up to the fight to save Fire Station #3.

The Old Colorado City Historical Society has initiated their new program to honor those citizens of Old Town who have embodied the spirit and personality of Colorado City. At our premier "First Families of Colorado City" ceremony on September 25th held on Colorado Avenue at 28th Street, we honored the Unsers at site their primary residence.

Louie and Marie Unser came to Colorado City in 1909 and Louie became the meat cutter at the Borst Market on Colorado Avenue. Living at various locations around Old Town, they raised three boys Joe, Louie and Jerry. All three would soon race the Pikes Peak Hill Climb. Jerry had four boys who would also race the mountain; Jerry, Louie, Bobby and Al. All were born in Old Colorado City except Al, who was born after Jerry moved his family to Albuquerque, NM.

Our thanks to Dave Hughes for organizing this great event and for underwriting the cost of the commemorative plaque.



photo by Don Kallhaus

*Text of the "First Families of Colorado City" plaque —*

### ORIGINAL HOME OF RACING UNSER FAMILY

This is the site of the principal home of the many descendants of Louie and Marie Unser, who lived and worked in Colorado City from 1909 - 1951. They began the world's greatest racing family. Eleven Unsers from three generations raced the Pikes Peak Hill Climb 132 times starting in 1916, winning 38 times. Seven Unsers raced the Indianapolis 500 59 times, winning 9 times.

The Unsers are still racing.

September 25th, 1998  
Old Colorado City Historical Society



# 1st ANNUAL OCCHS MEMBERSHIP BANQUET

photo by Don Kallaus



member photos by Gordon Gray

Special guest (above), Bobby Unser, spoke to our members and guests about his family, their roots in Colorado City, and the competitive Unser spirit that drove him to unseat his Uncle Louie as the "King of the Mountain". Bobby answered questions about racing, offering spellbinding explanations on the theory of speed, concentration, and why he will never ever ride with his brother, Louie. Excerpts from Bobby's speech will soon be available on our website. (Upper middle and counter clockwise) Beverley Disch and Cindi Estes, Georgia Croff, Betsy and John Evans, and Mid Kolstad were among those in attendance.

A tremendous thanks goes out to all the volunteers, members, guests, and especially to Joanne Karlson, who made our first Annual Membership Banquet a true success. The purpose of this event is to give recognition to the many wonderful volunteers who have given that extra effort to help make our History Center the viable entity it has become. OCCHS President, Robert Heinich, announced the Volunteer Awards. Certificates of Outstanding Service will be given to the honored volunteers. The 'Volunteer of the Year Award' and the 'Luther McKnight Colorado City Citizen Award' are being prepared using slices of log from Frank Cobb's grocery, the first grocery in 1859 Colorado City.

Our first annual dinner also honored the racing Unser family to initiate our new program, "First Families of Colorado City", and featured Bobby Unser as our guest speaker. Held at the International Polka Club, the event kicked off with a Jacob Schmidt Beer Taste-Alike Contest. Videos of Unser racing highlights played during the social hour and a fine dinner buffet catered by the Picnic Basket followed.

Bobby thrilled the audience of members and race fans as he shared the humble origins of his family here in Old Colorado City in the early 1900's. After his talk about his family, he opened the floor to questions from the audience and that is when the racing began. A most enjoyable evening.

by Don Kallaus

## FIRST ANNUAL OCCHS VOLUNTEER AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

### Beautification Awards

Those members whose work has added to the beauty of our Center.

Judith Yarrow & Alice Mayfield  
Sandy Knox  
Chuck Cobb

### Business Benefactors

Westside Innkeepers  
Charley Paterson Construction  
Dennis Richey - Pikes Peak  
National Bank

### Book & Gift Shop Awards

To the Committee for setting up our successful Book & Gift Shop.

Thelma Williams - chair, Jan Knox, & Sue Idleman

Faithful volunteers who regularly work a weekly shift in the shop.

Kay Arnold  
LaRue Ebersole  
Betsy Evans  
Mary Idleman  
Orville Kenelly

### Elinor Messerschmidt

Maloa Read

### Collections Awards

Ray Campbell - photos

Liz Geiss - artifacts

Betsy Evans - books

### Education Awards

For their Old Town Walking Tours

Jean Christopher  
Beverley Disch

### Programs & Events Award

Jan Knox

### Volunteer of the Year Awards

Beverley Disch & Jan Knox

### Luther McKnight Colorado City Citizen's Award

To the person who has done the most to accomplish the goals stated in the OCCHS Mission Statement,  
David Hughes



# The

# IS-IS

story & photographs by  
Ira Current

The Is-Is Theater was operated by Marvin Chamberlain's dad who usually occupied a seat at the back in front of the projection booth. He chewed something we thought to be betel nut, although probably plain chewing tobacco. During quieter periods we could hear the sputum plurping into the spittoon placed between his legs. A player piano along with additional sound effect accessories would provide the accompaniment for the drama. A real musician accompanied the better shows. Then the player rolls would take over for the speeded-up second show. There were times when the "stage" in front of the screen served performances for local theater groups.

Mother provided the admission fee for the showings using change from the jar that held grocery money provided on a weekly basis from Dad. To keep him from knowing the funds were being diverted for entertainment we stated our request as "*Naw-geezer-geezer-flip-flip-flip*", derived from the sound of film being rewound in the sheet iron projection booth, along with the flipping end of the film when the reel was full.

For use in my toy 35mm projector, Marvin Chamberlain provided me with lengths of nitrate motion picture film that had been damaged one way or another. I had a fairly lengthy cartoon excerpt that had one edge slit off by the theater projector. Another long sequence dealt with dealing of cards and, while it made no sense, was part of my program.

In Colorado Springs, the Isis Theater had its beginning in the twenties somewhere west of Twenty-fifth Street on West Colorado Avenue. We remember it as the Is-Is after it had been established on the northeast corner of Twenty-sixth Street.



(on previous page) Ira's toy "Little Giant" 35mm projector from 1927 that he used to screen outtakes at home. There was no take up reel capabilities, so the film just ran out in a pile on the floor. (above left) Local thespians on the stage of the Is-Is Theater in 1929. Audrey Caton is second from the left and her brother, Floyd (deceased), is near the center. Fourth from the left could be Charles Burkhardt, later known as Eagle Plume. The other people are unidentified. (below) A few frames of the pirated film clips from the Isis that Ira collected in 1927.

Short snippets of scenes from some of the regular screenings would be provided on request. Splicing of film in the booth was common. At home I used film cement made by dissolving nitrate film clippings in ether that I purchased from Ferd F. Koch, the druggist. I did my splicing with this ether solution while sitting in front of our coal fired stove. Fortunately no explosions occurred like the one I witnessed some years later at the high school chemistry laboratory when ether that had been poured into the trough running between laboratory tables was ignited by one of the Bunsen burners.

We observed the movie making process in Red Rock Cañon when a company was engaged in shooting three westerns. I think one of them was to be called "The Gold Grabbers". Was one of the Farnums an actor in it? One scene called for the miners to be leaving their shaft at quitting time. An old quarry building made of stone, half dug out, served as the mine entrance. My brother and I were extras fitted into the line each carrying a bucket with dipper as water-carriers.

When Alexander Film Company, maker of theater commercials, was run out of Denver after a disastrous dope fire in the aircraft manufacturing operation, their laboratory was located on the south side of West Colorado Avenue. We often made a stop to watch processed film drying on a



large wooden open drum. We looked in on our school friend, Floyd Caton, as he operated one of their animation cameras.

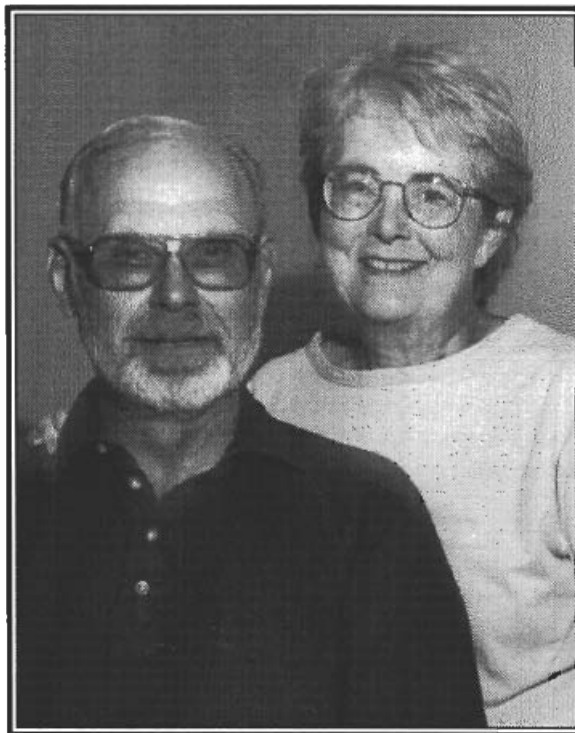
A few of the shows we caught during the silent days in the twenties at the Is-Is included such as *Tarzan of the Apes*; *The Mark of Zorro*; *The Covered Wagon*; *Child of the Prairie* and *Cupid's Round-up* with Tom Mix; and *Hell's Hinges* and *Wagon Tracks* with William S. Hart.

Before the end of the decade we had turned our attention to downtown Colorado Springs where we spent our dime for the early matinee at the deluxe Burns Theater; then another dime at the America or Rialto later in the day; and finally still a dime at the lowly Liberty in the evening. We could take in a multitude of shows on a low budget, including *Safety Last* with Harold Lloyd; *The Gold Rush*, Douglas Fairbanks; *The Count of Monte Cristo* with John Gilbert; *The Phantom of the Opera* with Colorado Springs' own Lon Chaney; *The General* with Buster Keaton; and Clara Bow in *Dancing Mothers*.

I don't remember if the Is-Is converted to sound after *The Jazz Singer* in 1927, but it would have called for some major structural changes to overcome the clatter of projectors heard through the sheet metal walls of the booth.

# MEET JOANNE KARLSON

This month we would like to introduce you to Joanne Karlson, who has been very involved the Society and Museum over the past two years. Joanne is a board member of the Old Colorado City Historical Society and has helped with fund raising efforts and membership drives. She became interested in the Society after she and her husband, Werner, returned from a vacation three years ago, during which time they had visited a number of museums. Joanne attended several of the OCCHS monthly program meetings and her interest grew. She joined the Society and was quickly presented with a wish list of volunteer jobs to be done. She chose to help in the Museum office with general office work, including filing! Since that time, she has been involved with the



*Werner & Joanne Karlson*

Society in many ways. Last year, she was co-chair for the Westside Innkeepers Bed & Breakfast Holiday Tour. This was a very successful tour of all the interesting B&B's located on the west side of Colorado Springs. Joanne, with Betty Baker, have been doing a wonderful job maintaining our membership list and collecting our dues. Most recently, Joanne and Dave Hughes co-chaired our very successful Old Colorado City Dinner & Membership Banquet held at the Polka Club on September 25th. Thanks to Joanne every detail was perfect.

Her other volunteer experiences have included co-founder and president of Candle Lighters (support group for parents of children cancer patients), zoo docent, and church activities.

Joanne is from Corvallis, Oregon and attended Oregon State University where she earned her degree in Home Economics and Education. She taught school in Oregon, California, and Colorado.

Joanne, Werner and their two children moved from Evergreen to Colorado Springs in 1975. Joanne worked for Current for seventeen years in the Test Kitchens, including Photo Food Styling, the Merchandising Department, and as copy editor in the Creative Services Department. During this time, the Karlson's owned and operated the Dairy Queen on Colorado Avenue. They sold the business three years ago, but they are still owners of the property.

Joanne and Werner have just sold their home in Colorado Springs and have moved to Corvallis, Oregon. They purchased Joanne's parent's home and will be renovating it, living there for the next few years. It is their intent to eventually return to the Colorado Springs area and back to blue skies and Bronco Country! They both remain loyal members and will continue to keep up with our progress through *West Word* and our website.

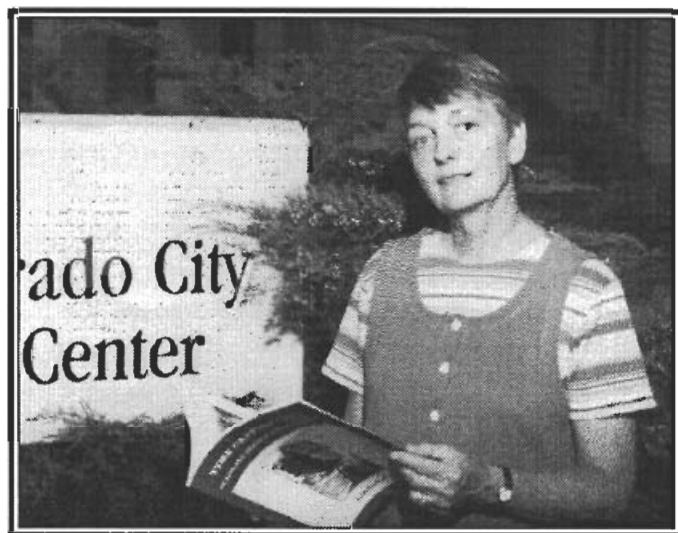
We have been very fortunate to have Joanne on the Old Colorado City Historical Society Board and as a very involved volunteer. We want to wish her and Werner the best of luck as they move to their new home. Joanne, don't forget your many friends and associates at OCCHS. We already miss you and will think of you often. We'll keep your slot open and ready for your return.

*written by Gordon Gray — photo by Paul Idleman*

## FINLEY'S PRESENTATION BRINGS 1900's COLORADO SPRINGS TO LIFE

Author Judy Reid Finley captivated the audience at our first General Meeting and Program held at the Old Colorado City History Center on October 9th. Her program, "Colorado Springs A Century Ago", presented Judy's research and material from her recently published book. Her talk and slide program took the audience through every aspect of life in the Pikes Peak region in the year 1900. After the program, Judy answered many questions and signed copies of her book. Her book, **Time Capsule 1900: Colorado Springs A Century Ago**, has been a popular item in our Book & Gift Shop.

Thank you, Judy, for visiting our History Center. Special thanks to the volunteers who prepared our refreshment table. We had a very good turn-out at the History Center program and enjoyed seeing many members we haven't seen in a while.



Judy Reid Finley

photo by Paul Idleman



# WESTSIDE HOLIDAY B&B TOUR

The Holiday Season is once again upon us and the Fourth Annual Old Colorado City Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour is but a few weeks away. We will need many volunteers to serve as host/hostess at the B&Bs on the tour and at the History Center. New Board Member, Gordon Gray, is busy coordinating the OCCHS activities for the event. The Westside Innkeepers Association has done so much to help the Old Colorado City History Center. Previous Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tours have provided the funds for our custom-made research library furniture and, most recently, purchased the custom-made museum sign which is now on the west side of our building. The Innkeepers are again pledging the proceeds from this year's tour to a need or project at the History Center.

This year's event promises to be even bigger and better. If you can help help at the Bed & Breakfast Inns or at the History Center for about 4 hours on Sunday, December 6th, please call the History Center at 636-1225 or Gordon Gray at 630-8238.

The Fourth Annual Old Colorado City Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour is held in conjunction with National Bed & Breakfast Open House. Many well-known Westside area Bed & Breakfast Inns will participate. The tour will be held on Sunday, December 6th, from 2-6 PM. Tickets are \$10 per person - Limited Quantities (Ticket Prices are for All Ages). Visa/Mastercard services are available at the History Center and most of B&B Inns.

The overwhelming success of previous tours has assured the continuation of this annual event. The expanded tour will feature Bed & Breakfast Inns from last year's tour in addition to several new area B&Bs decked out for the holidays. This is an opportunity to take a peek "inn-side" and celebrate the season with some of Colorado's finest bed and breakfasts. Refreshments and a chance to enter a drawing for special gifts will be available at the Old Colorado City History Center from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. Music virtuoso Phil Volen will perform from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Special bed & breakfast tour/lodging packages will also be offered by select area bed & breakfast inns.

The participating Bed & Breakfast Inns are:

**The Awarenest Victorian Bed & Breakfast** at 1218 W. Pikes Peak Avenue was built in 1901 for a conductor with the Denver-Rio Grande railway and has been fully restored with period antiques and vintage stained glass. 630-8241.

**Holden House-1902 Bed & Breakfast Inn** at 1102 W. Pikes Peak Avenue, was built by Isabel Holden and opened in 1986 as the Westside's first bed & breakfast inn. The three Victorian homes are graced with family heirlooms 471-3980.

**Monaco's Lodge Bed & Breakfast** at 1116 W. Pikes Peak Avenue was built in 1894 and is a three story Victorian updated by friends, family and owner-innkeeper, Joe Monaco. 475-8853.

**Old Town GuestHouse** at 115 S. 26th Street is a newly built urban inn, located in Historic Old Town. Upscale amenities include private hot tubs on private decks, fireplaces, game and exercise room. 632-9194.

**Our Hearts Inn-Old Colorado City** at 2215 W. Colorado Avenue was built in 1895 and has been filled with antiques and hand stenciled interiors and is located in the heart of the historic district. 473-8684.

**The Painted Lady Bed & Breakfast Inn** at 1318 W. Colorado Avenue was built in 1894 as the home of William Proctor, the proprietor of the local billiard hall. It also served as a boarding house. 473-3165

**Spurs & Lace Inn** at 2829 W. Pikes Peak Avenue was built in the late 1800's and moved from its former location to Old Colorado City. Three floors of turned spindled staircases, it showcases yesterday's charm. 227-7662.

**Wedgewood Cottage Bed & Breakfast Inn** at 1111 W. Pikes Peak Avenue was built in 1899 and offers quaint surroundings in a lovely two room suite with separate entrance. 636-1829.

For more information and ticket purchase contact the Old Colorado City History Center at 636-1225 or e-mail us [history@oldcolo.com](mailto:history@oldcolo.com). Tickets are also available at selected retail outlets and at each of the participating B&B Inns. You can visit the Westside Innkeepers Association website at [www.bbonline.com/col/westside.html](http://www.bbonline.com/col/westside.html) or through the OCCHS website at <http://history.oldcolo.com>, then click your mouse on the "OCCHS" bottle and on "Favorite Links".

## MEMBERSHIPS DUE FOR RENEWAL

<u>September</u>	<u>November</u>
Janice Billingsley	Jack Ekstrom
Margaret Bofencamp	Bob & Janet Henn
Ed Chonka	Patty Kingery
Rusty & Barbara Darling, Jr.	Scott O'Malley
Marijean Espy	Mildred Rex
Jan MacKeil	Pamela Rich
Donald McGilchrist	Jim & Virginia Rogers
Patricia Poyner	John & Shirley Sampson
Robert & Julie Trout	Wilbur & Doris Wolfe
<u>October</u>	<u>December</u>
Barbara Ewell	Steve Antonuccio
Charline Hagerman	Lois Carr
Samuel Hall	Linda & Ken Day
Beverly Millett	Elizabeth Doane
Melissa Walker	LaRue & Patricia Ebersole
Barbara Walton	Kenneth Kramer
	Mark Lewis
<u>November</u>	Dawn Rector
Wilma Bradshaw	Frances Vogler-Gripe
Ed & Barbara Coak	Gracie Wright
Wendy & Gary Daniels-Gillam	Pat Stark-Jacobs

Your membership expiration date is printed on the upper right corner of your mailing label on every issue of *West Word*.

# WEST SIDE MEMORIES

## TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

### ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO Fall 1873

¶ It is against the law for cattle to be allowed to roam at large within the Town limits, but the citizens who live in the neighborhood of the Hunt House will not be very particular about strict compliance with the law on the part of the man who sends his cow round there every morning, if he will only be kind enough to take off the bell which is attached to the animal. Early rising is, doubtless, a good thing, but four o'clock is rather too early for some people to be rung up, and they would like to be excused. Moreover, they find it expensive to have to throw boots and shoes out of their bedroom windows. 9/6 *The Colorado Springs Gazette and El Paso County Times*

¶ Licut. Henry Jackson, property officer of the U. S. Signal Service, has arrived from Washington, and gone to the summit of the Peak. He will make arrangement for the immediate construction of the building for the station on the summit. A party consisting of Lieutenant Jackson, B. F. Woodward, Esq. of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and Messrs. Matthew France, J. C. Wilson, and George H. Trimble, of Colorado Springs, started for the summit of Pike's Peak yesterday morning. 9/13 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ It is satisfactory to find that, leaving the two towns themselves out of the estimate, there was a majority in the County in favor of Colorado Springs as the County Seat. Naturally enough, the sympathies of the County voters have been largely with the "Old Town," for there is a strong bond existing amongst the old settlers, who, as Judge Baldwin puts it, fought the Indians and grasshoppers together. But the advantages of Colorado Springs are now so manifest, and the offers made by the Colorado Springs Company were so liberal and

so advantageous to the County, that sympathy had to give way to good sense. 9/13 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ There were several fights after the election, but no one was very seriously hurt. The "Republican" candidate for the office of Sheriff, looked down a pistol-barrel, but, happily, nothing came of it. 9/13 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Messrs. France, Howbert & Co., have just completed a full set of Abstracts of Titles to property in El Paso County, including Colorado Springs. In the course of their work, they have detected many flaws in deeds, conveying property in Town, owing to the ignorance or carelessness of those who have drawn them up, and it will be well for those who have bought property in Town at second hand to consult them, as future complications may thus be avoided, at a very trifling present outlay. Messrs. France & Co's Abstract Books will also be of much value to such people as make loans secured on real estate. Now that there is such a set, our citizens can only blame themselves if they have any defective titles. 9/20 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Colorado City, to console herself for the loss of the County Seat, has set up a Dance House. It is an institution which we need not want to take away from her. 9/27 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ That wicket paper, the *Central City Register* seeks to make light of our Indian Scare. With a willful belittling of the truth, it says: "A band of twenty Cheyennes, painted and plumed to the highest perfection of original art, galloped up to within a mile or two of Colorado Springs Tuesday. The result was the citizens of the town took down their shot guns and stirred each other up with the most harrowing descriptions of a general massacre. Meanwhile the Cheyennes were galloping away to scare some other com-

munity." Wait till Central has a scare, and then see what fun *we* can make. 10/18 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Mr. Howbert, our County Clerk, is building himself a country residence on his little farm just west of Town. There was a time when he owned nearly all the tract on that side of the creek, but he sold it out in the days before Colorado Springs had begun to grow. 9/20 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ We learn that a company of English capitalists have leased the Lake on the summit of the Divide, and intend to deepen and widen it, and stock it with fish. They also propose to put up ice-houses capable of storing about 20,000 tons of ice, with which they will supply Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, etc. 10/4 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Professor Hayden's party, while on Pike's Peak, erected a stone pile which can be distinctly seen from this place, twelve miles distant, with the aid of a good glass. This stone pile was used by them as one point of triangulation to ascertain the exact altitude of the peak, by means of a base line three miles long connected with the astronomical point located here by Mr. Dean of the United States Coast Survey. 10/4 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Some of our citizens living on the outskirts were rather alarmed on Wednesday evening by seeing a bright light apparently on the roof of one of the buildings in the center of the Town; one or two of them started for the "fire." They found, however, that the Signal Corps were exchanging torch signals with their brethren on the Peak. The telegraph line, we understand, is out of order, and communication has, therefore, to be kept up by other means. 10/18 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ It is reported that steps will be taken to pass a Bill through the

## WESTSIDE MEMORIES

Territorial Legislature, authorizing the County Commissioners to make over the Court House in Colorado City to the School District of which that Town is the center. The citizens of Colorado City, it will be remembered, contributed \$3500 towards the cost of the building, and, though they did so for the purpose of keeping the County Seat there, and got their reward in a year's longer tenure of the coveted distinction, yet no one in the County will be likely to grudge them the recovery of their contribution. It is very questionable, however, whether it is fair to ask the County to give them the \$2500 which it had to contribute towards the building. Cannot that School District, in some way or the other, raise \$2500, and offer it to the County Commissioners for the whole building? If that could be done, no one would have cause to feel aggrieved at the transfer. We should like to be generous to Colorado City, but want to be just. *10/25 Colorado Springs Gazette*

### ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO Fall 1898

¶ The old chestnut story that Colorado City could never become a smelting and ore treating point by reason of lack of fuel and railroad hostility, has become a back number. The unusual success of the Colorado-Philadelphia Reduction company has forever dispelled the illusion and the natural advantages of Colorado City as an ore treating point are now recognized by mill and smelter men all over the West. Messrs. Cary and Hackstaff of Chicago, after visiting the available smelting points in Colorado, arrived in this city a couple of weeks ago and after looking over the ground immediately decided to erect a smelting plant in this city. They forthwith purchased the glass works site comprising seven and one-half acres of land on Camp creek between the Midland and D. & R. G. Railroad tracks, and began excavating for the foundations for their furnaces. The site chosen is an ideal one, having the best of railway facilities and is within 100 yards of an unlimited supply of lime stone. The concern will be known

as the L. P. Cary Smelting company and will be under the immediate management of Messrs. Cary and Hackstaff, both of whom are practical smelter men. The plant will be of fifty tons capacity and while it will be modern in every detail, no new newfangled process will be adopted. About twenty-five men will be employed as soon as the plant is completed. The machinery will all be new and has been contracted for through the Hassell Iron Works company. *9/3 Colorado City Iris*

¶ The *Woodland Park Times*, edited by J. R. Wilson, prints the following "rot" which only shows to what extremity he has driven in order to cripple Senator E. O. Wolcott's chance to succeed himself. The "idgit" says: "The Colorado City and Cripple Creek gamblers have brought pressure to bear on Senator Wolcott and he in turn on District Attorney McAllister and the gambling house are preparing to resume business at the old stands until after election. Mr. Wolcott has the reputation of looking after his friends." Without doubt, Senator Wolcott had about as much to do with gambling in Cripple Creek as the editor of the Times had, and it is unworthy of an editor to accuse a United States senator of such a crime. Why not accuse him of sinking the La Bourgogne or the killing of a man in some mine, or of the late Kokomo tragedy? One would be about as near the truth as the other. *9/3 Colorado City Iris*

¶ The Colorado City fire boys are entitled to great credit for the work they did at the big fire in Colorado Springs last Saturday. When the call came from the burning city, they had just subdued a fire at Borst's slaughter house and were gathering up their hose. On arriving at the Springs, they went into the thickets of the fight and made a connection with the plug in front of the Antlers and took up a position between the hotel and the Newton Lumber yard. Had the pressure been sufficient, they would have saved the building. They held their position, until the wet blankets which covered them, caught fire. They then ran up ladders on the south

end of the building to the second story, but they were unable to reach the fire on the roof with their water and after burning a portion of their hose in their efforts, they desisted. Their efforts at outer points saved the blocks both east and north of the Antlers. They worked from early in the afternoon till after midnight and handled streams after the arrival of the Denver men. It was their first experience in a big fire, but they behaved like veterans. *10/8 Colorado City Iris*

¶ The vertical system of writing will be introduced in the Colorado City schools. The McMannis copy book, same as used in the Colorado Springs schools will be adopted. Miss McMannis will instruct the Colorado City teachers in the new style of writing. *9/10 Colorado City Iris*

¶ Gilaspie & Evans, proprietors of the Palace barber shop, have consolidated their shop with that of John Thomas and have put in a new outfit of fixtures. This shop has three first-class barbers and can shave their customers with neatness and dispatch. Fine baths and a superior shoe shine can also be had at this establishment. *9/10 Colorado City Iris*

¶ John Schroder was in police court Wednesday on the complaint of C. R. Husted, charged with refusing to pay tax on one white bull terrier. The court assessed a fine of \$5, which was paid. Shortly afternoon, Mr. Husted, who is tax collector, and Schroder met in front of George Riter's billiard hall and in the affray which followed, Schroder was hit over the head by Husted with his cane. Bystanders interfered and stopped the disturbance. Schroder is said to be the aggressor. *10/1 Colorado City Iris*

¶ Trustees Sherman, Seavey, Irvin and Borst were present Monday evening when Mayor Morse called the Mid-month meeting of the town board to order. After reading the minutes of the previous meeting, a communication from the county assessor was read stating that the assessed valuation of the

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# WESTSIDE MEMORIES

town for the year 1898 was \$270,450. The office bond of thirteen saloon keepers were read and approved. The matter of electric lights on the streets was taken up and discussed at length but action was deferred until the first meeting in November. The matter of procuring a new harness and wagon for street work was discussed but no action taken. 10/22 *Colorado City Iris*

¶ The Indians which have been camping on the boulevard in the neighborhood of Camp creek for the past three months, have departed for the Indian Territory. 10/29 *Colorado City Iris*

## SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO Fall 1923

¶ The following grade teachers are assigned to the West Side schools: Arensdale: Laura Ryan, Mary Wolfe, Annie Farrier; Midland: August Knelp, Florence Simkins, Sallie Yates, Beulah Bartholomew, Marie Otte; Longfellow: Guy Fox, Carrie Spencer, Bertha Holt, Lavina Howard, Estelle L. Paige, Beatrice Rule; Whittier: Laura Ryan, Helen Wright, Bonna H. Millward, Harold Felton, Bertha DeShazo, Jennie Keiser, and Marie Cochrane. 9/7 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ The appearance of Byron Hames on the streets takes old-timers back to around twenty years ago, when Old Town was almost wet enough to float battleships down Colorado avenue. there were two rival factions among the thirst-quencher, Hames leading one and James I. Lacey, the other. They were veritable kings of their respective followings. Fortunes passed through their hands—passed through is right. Years passed. Dry forces were gathering. An idea struck Lacey. He would help put the town dry and become bootlegger king. He got busy and aided the dries. There was rejoicing among some—one sinner was returning. King James, as he had become known, was chuckling to himself. The town was put dry, and he was prepared to sit upon a throne so wet it almost needed life-buoys to keep it afloat. But

King James had reckoned with Ed Wolfe and Lee Martin, who soon busted up his palace. Lacey and Hames both left town later. Hames is back on a visit. King James, like the pugilists, can't come back—he's dead. 9/21 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Last Friday morning, about 9:45, the cries of a man were heard in the 2800 block, between Colorado avenue and Cucharras street, which soon brought all neighbors to the scene, where they found a telephone lineman on a pole, who, in some manner, had gotten himself crossed up with the light wires, so that he could not get loose. The quick action of J. E. Johnston, who has charge of the power plant at 2810 West Cucharras street, who, when he saw the man and realized his predicament, pulled the switch and shut off the current, which was going through the man's body, thus saving him from a fall of 25 or 30 feet. 9/7 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Relatives are now trying to find information regarding the supposed murder of Jeremiah Dien (Guyen) in Colorado City in April, 1872. Anyone having information that might prove of benefit in tracing the mystery are asked to communicate with City Clerk Nichols. 9/14 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Charles E. Sears of the U. S. Marshall's office in Denver, was here the latter part of the week on business, and spent an evening with J. C. McCreary and wife of 3317 West Colorado avenue. He was employed at the Denver mint at the time of the \$200,000 robbery last December. He and others heard the shots, but before they got out of the building the job was completed and the bandits gone. Mr. Sears is an old resident of Holyoke, where he was in the hotel business when McCreary was in the newspaper business there. 9/21 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Mrs. James Butke entertained a small company of ladies on Thursday

afternoon of last week at her home at 2231 West Vermijo, honoring her aunt, Mrs. Anna Howard, who was celebrating her seventy-second birthday anniversary that day. Those who enjoyed the hospitality of Mrs. Butke and the companionship of the honor guest were Mrs. William S. Davis, Mrs. Walter Roach, Mrs. D. M. Gorman, Mrs. E. J. Nugent, Mrs. J. W. Routh, Mrs. L. W. Chambon, Mrs. A. C. Avery, Mrs. Eliza J. Copeland and Mrs. Anna Sufficool. 9/21 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ In the case of the Town of Manitou vs. Curt Goerke, which was on trial in the district court last week, the old controversy regarding the legality of the old road past the Balanced Rock, was decided in favor of the plaintiff. This, however, does not do away with the unsightly fence around the Balanced Rock. 9/21 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ H. S. Lockwood reports the sale of the property of Louis Unser, 2717 West Pikes Peak avenue, to George Sutherland, who has moved into the property and will make some very substantial improvements. 10/5 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Ward Brothers, lately operating the restaurant at 2507 ½ West Colorado have bought the grocery stock at 122 South Nevada avenue and are moving it to 2520 West Colorado avenue, where they expect to be ready for business tomorrow. 10/12 *Colorado Springs Independent*

## FIFTY YEARS AGO Fall 1948

¶ Miss Dorothy E. Smith, curator of the Pioneer Museum of this city, is desirous of securing copies of the Colorado City Journal, the first paper published here, back in the 1860's. If any residents have copies of the Journal, or know of any, Miss Smith will be pleased to hear from them. The writer has a reprinted copy (done some years ago by Irving Howbert) of the Journal, Volume 1, No. 18, dated



# WESTSIDE MEMORIES

Thursday, November 28, 1861. Benjamin F. Crowell was the editor. The subscription price was \$5 a year, and the motto, "Faithful and Fearless." Colorado City was then in Colorado Territory. M. S. Beach was city recorder. Governor William Gilpin issued a Thanksgiving proclamation on November 18, 1861, the holiday being November 28. A mass convention was held in Colorado City on November 24, to nominate candidates for county office. Alex M. Smith was elected president, Messrs. Gray, Bain, Mann and Adhill, vice-presidents, and George A. Bute secretary of said convention. On motion of M. S. Beach, the nomination was carried on by ballot, and Messrs. Beach and Spencer were appointed tellers by the chair. *9/23 Colorado Springs Independent (NOTE: O.C.C.H.S. has copies of this issue of the Colorado City Journal for sale in the Book-Gift shop for \$6.00—plus postage if mailed.)*

∞ The West Side Commercial Club, which suspended regular meetings during the summer because of its many other activities is now making plans for the winter and the resumption of periodic gatherings. The initial meeting to discuss winter plans was held September 15. The summer program included square dancing each Monday night, and band concerts each Thursday night. The square dances and movies were financed by West Side merchants. More than 2,500 persons attended these activities. A picnic was held last Thursday at the Jaycee chuck wagon site in the Garden of the Gods. More than 200 merchants, wives, families and friends were present. The Civic Players, headed by Carmen Freyschlag, presented a play. Johnnie Jones, popular Colorado Springs singer, led the singing, assisted by Eddie and Bob, the Colorado Play Boys of KRDO. *9/30 Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ Dale Timmerman, 2022 West Kiowa St., won a \$100 U. S. Savings bond Tuesday for placing first in a state-wide Socony-Vacuum Oil company "X-Man" contest. Company

officials toured the state from July 15 to Sept. 15 and made the award on the basis of courtesy and prompt service from gas station operators who were unaware a contest was in progress. Timmerman, an employee at the Conover Motor Co. The savings bond was presented by H. A. Martin, Denver district manager. *9/30 Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ Residents south of the Midland Terminal railroad tracks are hoping that the promised gas line over there will soon be a reality. As in other sections of the city, new buildings are being constructed, and many other residents desire gas in their homes. Years ago, some sections of the South Side had gas, the main being on South Twenty-Sixth St. High water washed out the line at the Fountain creek bridge, since then no gas has been available to residents over there. City construction and repairs have been at an all-time high, which has caused delay in improvements in some areas. *9/30 Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ Monday morning a skunk was found in the ore bin at the unloading docks at the Cycle Mill. The sides of the bin are perpendicular and the bottom is made of steel rails and very steep. There was a little loose ore in the bin, and poor Mr. Skunk was scrambling around, but unable to get out. Pete Vidmar finally climbed down in the bin, and carried it out on a shovel. What the skunk did to Pete shouldn't happen to a dog. P. S. The skunk came to and ambled off after a while. *9/30 Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ West Pikes Peak avenue has been rebuilt, and the motorist who now attempts to make a speedway out of it, as in the past, likely will find himself bouncing high, wide and handsome, to use an old expression—if he can find himself. Two dips have been made at each cross street, presumably to carry water southward, the way it always flows from East Manitou to the hilltops west of Monument creek. Change in

the roadbed will have a tendency to slow down speed, making travel safer all the way, a relief at West Junior high school. Additional street improvements are the oil-paving of South Twenty-fifth and South Twenty-sixth streets from Colorado avenue, the former to Wheeler street on the south side and the latter to Fairview cemetery. Both have been put in splendid condition. *10/14 Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ Funeral services for Mrs. Ella Clark, 2418 West Platte Ave., were held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Swan Drawing Room. Mrs. Clark, a resident of Colorado Springs for 42 years, died September 22 at a local hospital. She was a member of the Episcopal Church. Mrs. Clark was buried in Evergreen Cemetery. Survivors are her son, Walter A. Clark, Sedalia; two grandchildren and one great grandchild. *9/30 Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ Plans for enlarging the city's Pioneer Museum at 25 W. Kiowa St., to house additional exhibits which are now in storage, were broached at Tuesday's City Council meeting. An addition at the rear of the present building, either two or three stories high, was suggested by Councilman Martin Drake, as the solution to the museum's overcrowded condition. Councilmen plan to visit the building soon to look over the situation. *10/28 Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ Through the natural instincts of Mr. and Mrs. Quail and the kindness of Ves Cruts, caretaker of Fairview cemetery, a flock of 19 of the pretty birds live in the nice place on South Twenty-Sixth St., where hundreds of former residents of Colorado City rest in peace. The birds are quite tame, and have been there more or less for many years, as Ves has been caretaker. He puts out feed for them. Pheasants are often seen in the cemetery, as are deer also. After the game season opens, some of the pretty birds and animals disappear. *9/30 Colorado Springs Independent*

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# FOR YOUR INTEREST

## CLEANING UP THE CENTER

No, I'm not talking about getting rid of Laura Belle's red lights -- heaven (or some place) forbid. I'm talking about the job the cleaning lady has been doing every Thursday —through the generosity of Agnes Johnson. Paul has nominated Agnes for sainthood. Agnes has underwritten the cost of the cleaning lady, Diane Gotovich, through November and December. After that it will be up to the rest of us to keep her coming. We are looking for members willing to sponsor a week of cleaning. The cost is \$25 a week. Chris and I have signed up. If you are willing to help, call Paul at the Center. Let's keep the History Center looking good!

*Bob Heinich, President*

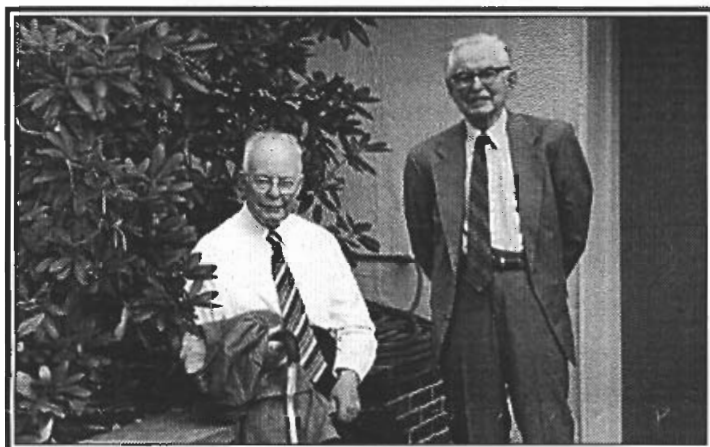


photo courtesy of Malva Read

*Richard Current (left) with his brother, Ira, at Richards home in South Natick, Massachusetts last October.*

## RICHARD CURRENT IS HONORED

The Society of American Historians has presented Richard Current with their prestigious Bruce Catton Prize for lifetime achievement in the writing of history. Richard now lives in South Natick, Massachusetts and is a Lifetime member of the Old Colorado City Historical Society. He was born in Colorado City and grew up on the corner of 32nd Street and Pikes Peak Avenue.

In a ceremony last Spring in New York City, the Society of American Historians honored Richard for his books which exemplify the union of the historian and the artist. In his acceptance speech, he acknowledged his thanks to his high school English teachers in Colorado Springs.

"We used a textbook that was influenced by the teachings of a Harvard professor, Barrett Wendell, author of *English Composition* (1891). Wendell taught — and my high school teachers taught — that there are three qualities of good expository writing: "clearness, force, and elegance." Here was the far-reaching influence of a Harvard professor — a bit of New England cultural imperialism in Colorado, perhaps. Anyhow, I took this lesson to heart and have tried to apply it to historical writing."

Our sincere congratulations to Dick for receiving this honor for his work. OCCHS and Old Colorado City is very proud of you.



photo by Judith Yarrow

*Mike Read, Ann Donovan and Alice Mayfield work on our demonstration herb garden at the History Center. Their first garden features primarily medicinal herbs used throughout the history of Old Colorado City. The garden features name plates and will eventually have Braille caption plates, too. Judith Yarrow (behind the camera) and Alice Mayfield were honored at our Annual Dinner & Awards Banquet for their work in forming and coordinating our "Herbal Renewal" committee.*

## THANKS, JAN MacKELL

Jan MacKell, OCCHS member since 1986, came down from Cripple Creek recently to visit and donate some of her research to our library. Jan is a local researcher and writer specializing in the history of Colorado City and Cripple Creek. She has been working on indexing our *West Word* and also provided us with an index of Colorado City topics found in her own research files. Jan has donated her Old Colorado City Name List which partially indexes those associated with the saloons, gambling halls and prostitution trade in Colorado City. Jan has researched and published several articles on local history which she will allow us to reprint in future issues of *West Word*. Thanks to Jan's research and donation we are gaining those missing details in Colorado City history.

## THANK YOU, RICHARD DITTEMORE

Our deepest thanks to OCCHS member Richard Dittmore for his donation of photographic copies of Ira Current's photographs. Dick has been friends with the Currents since childhood and underwrote the cost of \$350 to have Ira's donated photographs to the Denver Public Library copied for us. Dick has also been helping our Vertical Files with donations of manuscripts. Thank you, Dick, for helping to keep Colorado City history alive.

## NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

We recently received a \$10,000 grant from El Pomar to construct our computer database to link with our website. We were able to hire database designer, Scott Wright, who is performing similar services for the Colorado Springs Pioneers

# FOR YOUR INTEREST

Museum. Scott's work is almost finished now and it's time for OCCHS to begin the arduous task of entering the data on each and every photo, document, artifact, and information in our vast collections. If anyone has two to three hours a week they could donate to enter the information into our database, please contact Paul at 636-1225. If you can type, you can enter data. Training will be provided. We're on our way to completing our "Virtual Museum"

## TROLLEY SYSTEM UPDATE

The Pikes Peak Historical Railway Foundation reports that over the past several months a lot of activity has taken place which will shape how the trolley system will support the community. For example, the length of the first segment of the trolley line has been increased to extend from Colorado Springs' downtown transit terminal on the east to the area of Red Rocks Canyon Shopping Center on the west. The trolley route will connect these terminals with Old Colorado City, Gateway, and the developing mixed use areas along Colorado Avenue. The trolley is expected to be a major factor integrating these areas into a vital living and business community along the trolley line.

In a related matter, the concept of new street lighting along Colorado Avenue has been combined with the trolley project with the expected result of a single set of poles to incorporate both lighting and the trolley wire support in a coordinated and attractive manner.

The project team for construction of the trolley line has been formed under the leadership of Hughes/Smith, Inc., the general contractor for the recently completed Robert M. Isaac Court House. The schedules for the many phases of construction are under discussion in preparation for coordination with city departments and with residents and businesses along the route. The plans for the capital funds campaign are also under development. The kickoff of this effort is planned for this fall.

The major push toward making the trolley a reality has begun. Now is the time for those individuals and organizations who want to be a part of this exciting concept to become involved. For more information call 475-9508.

*by Carolyn A. Rothwell*

## KATHLEEN O'NEILL MARRIAGE PARK

Perhaps some of our members may be able to help the Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Department. One of Colorado Springs' new parks has been named for Westsider, Kathleen O'Neil Marriage. Jan Butters, Manager of Community Relations for Parks and Rec, has found only one sentence about Kathleen through research at Penrose Library. Jan is hoping that some of our members may have known Kathleen and be able to tell her more or even have in their possession some of her written articles.

Kathleen O'Neill Marriage was recognized as far away as England for her expertise in garden design and extensive knowledge of flowers — Alpine flowers being her favorite. She owned and operated Uptown Gardens on West

Caramillo from 1916 to 1946, designed many local gardens, particularly in the Broadmoor area, and was a founding member of the Broadmoor and Colorado Springs Garden Clubs. Kathleen's articles on native plants appeared in many national horticultural publications and she wrote a regular garden column for the *Gazette Telegraph*.

The Parks and Recreation Department plans include the Spring 1999 Dedication of the Kathleen O'Neill Marriage Park. A garden, named for her, is being designed and planned at the original site of Upton Gardens — the Beidelman Environmental Center.

If you have any information to help learn more about Kathleen, please call Jan Butters at 385-6509 or let us know at the History Center and we'll pass it along.

## THE 59ers CLUB

*The 59ers* is a new group formed to support historical projects at the Old Colorado City History Center and the Pikes Peak Historical Street Railway Foundation. Their name was derived from 1859, the year of Colorado City's founding, and trolley car #59. Restoration of car #59 is the PPHSRF's current project. *The 59ers* will provide support through educational, social and financial activities.

## MARION STEAVENSON'S DOLLS

Many visitors to the History Center Book & Gift Shop stop to look at the little dolls hand made by OCCHS member Marion Steavenson, but few realize that they are for sale. Marion, a skilled artist, long-time art instructor and highly successful ladies fashion designer, has combined her talents to create "Marion's Original Collector Dolls".

The dolls are clothed in authentic Victorian or Old West costumes. Each doll is one of a kind. No two are ever made alike. The dolls are scaled 1 inch to 1 foot and most are 5 inches to 6 inches high. Each doll head is hand crafted from clay, bisque fired and hand-painted. The body frame is constructed of hard wood and soft brass wire so that the legs and arms may easily be posed in any normal position. The bodies are soft cloth stuffed with fiber fill, then dressed using materials with the smallest prints and checks available, as well as the tiniest and most dainty laces and ribbons. Some are dressed in real silk. Be sure to see Marion Steavenson's Collector Dolls when visiting the Book & Gift Shop.

## THE HELEN MARIE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Diane Gotovich not only keeps our History Center clean and spotless, she is also dedicated to a very worthwhile cause - The Helen Marie Wildlife Foundation. The organization is working toward the completion of a state-of-the-art, full-scale Wildlife Facility & Hospital for the Pikes Peak region. They've received the endorsement of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Audubon Society, and a wealth of other animal agencies for their efforts to become a major provider of both wildlife education and rehabilitation for the region. Diane serves as Resource Director for the Helen Marie Wildlife Foundation and is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.