

HOLIDAY 1998

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

### Merry Christmas to all members of the Old Colorado City Historical Society

#### Rocky Mountain Country Christmas

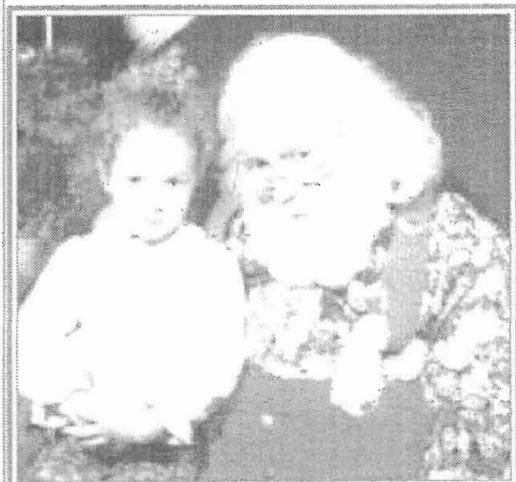
This annual event was held on November 28th in Bancroft Park and was a huge success. The weather was ideal and brought out many people who were ready to get into the Holiday spirit. Paul Idleman and Don Kallaus, photographers for the event, were in the Log Cabin all afternoon and evening with Santa. Bev Disch and Jean Christopher were hostesses for the event and were very busy collecting money from Moms and Dads who wanted their childrens' pictures taken with Santa. During the afternoon and early evening, pictures of over 200 children were taken with Santa. During this event, we kept the Museum open until 7 p.m. and for the day, we had over 175 visitors. It was a very busy Sunday and a big thank you goes to the all the faithful OCCHS volunteers.

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

*The Fourth Annual Bed & Breakfast Tour* was held on Sunday, December 6th. After weeks of unseasonable fall weather, a sudden change brought colder weather and snow. However, this did not keep people away and the event was again very successful. The Innkeepers were their usual gracious hosts and hostesses and each of the eight B&B's were all decked out in their finest for the Holiday Season. The History Center was one of the stops on the tour and during the afternoon over 150 people stopped by for refreshments, listen to the fine entertainment by Phil Volan, and register for door prizes that were donated to the Society by local merchants. Many guests said that they look forward to the event and always enjoy seeing all the new and unique decorations for the holiday season.

Many OCCHS volunteers were needed for this event to be host/hostesses at the Inns and to provide refreshments at the center. Bev Disch arranged for all the volunteers. The many gifts that were donated for door prizes were obtained from the merchants by Betsy Evans. Thanks Bev and Betsy for a fine job!!

#### Rocky Mountain Christmas.....



One of the little visitors telling Santa what she wants for Christmas.

*Photo by Paul Idleman*

# Old Colorado City Historical Society

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

## WEST WORD

VOLUME 13 HOLIDAY 1998 NUMBER 7

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 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 Heimich ..... | 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. Meetings are at the History Center, with refreshments beginning at 10:00a.m.

If you plan to attend the monthly meeting, 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.

### Next General Meeting

January 8, 1999  
at the History Center

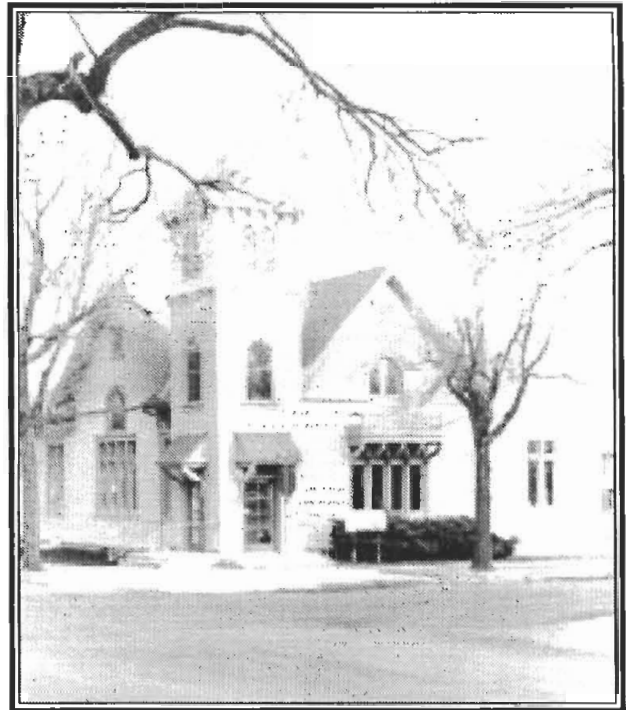


Photo by Don Kallaus

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

### FREE ADMISSION

OPEN TUESDAY THRU SUNDAY

#### Winter Hours

11:00 a.m. TO 4:00 p.m.

CLOSED MONDAYS

Book & Gift Shop

Visit our web site for even more history!

<http://history.oldcolo.com>

stories  
documents  
manuscripts  
photographs  
interviews  
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events

We're adding more all the time.

e-mail us at: [history@oldcolo.com](mailto:history@oldcolo.com)

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

# MAILBOX

Dear OCCHS,

I have just viewed your web site, and really like it! However, I noted an error in a caption. On the DSP&P page, there is a picture listed as "DSP&P at Strontia Springs." This is actually Beaver Brook station in Clear Creek on the Colorado Center/Colorado & Southern. I have been researching this area and recognize this picture.

Additional, confirming photos are on the narrow gauge gauge circle web site.

Mike Conder  
mwconder@duke-energy.com

*Thank you, Mike for bringing this to our attention. We take great care and pride in identifying and logging our pictures but once in awhile, something slips by us or we are given erroneous information. Your e-mail has been given to our photography group to research and correct this picture.*

Dear OCCHS,

I visited your museum last February and had a great time. I am trying to track down the history of my family that lived in your area during the late 1800s and early 1900s. I thought maybe you could help.

My grandmother was born in and around Colorado City in October, 1890. She was married to William J. Williams in St. Mary's Church in Colorado Springs in 1908. I have been unable to locate the birth date of my grandmother. Do you have a listing of the Catholic Churches in the area at this time? She lived in Colorado City, Manitou Springs, and Cripple Creek.

Any help that you can provide will be appreciated.

Richard Nell  
Seattle, WA  
neelfam@aol.com

*Thank you for visiting our Museum and we are glad that you had a good time. We have forwarded your request to one of our members who will research the Catholic Churches in this area during the timeframe that you mentioned. Someone will be in touch with you in the near future.*

Dear OCCHS,

Enclosed are my annual dues. I hope that my husband and I can send a donation some of these days to help support the fine work you are doing with the Museum.

I do enjoy reading about the Museum in the West Word and I am so anxious to see it in person...hopefully this coming Spring.

Mary F. (Stone) Tate  
Irvine, CA

*Mary, thank you for renewing your membership and your support is greatly appreciated. We are very proud of the Museum and are glad to hear that you are planning a trip to Old Colorado City and the Museum. Please let us know when you*

*will be coming and we will give you the "First Class Tour". Without members like you, the Museum would not be a reality and a place where people can enjoy the history of the Old Colorado City area.*

Dear OCCHS,

I am sending my dues for this year. I enjoy getting the West Word so much. I just have to sit down and read every word of it. In the 75 years ago column, I often see a name of someone I knew, or know of. It is just like a letter from home.

I would also like to visit the Museum, especially to see the changes in the Church. It was my in-law family's Church for many years.

I was back in Old Colorado City in 1987 for my 55th class reunion and things there are certainly different and have grown a lot.

Thank you for the West Word

Lola (Cooper) Stone  
Cottage Grove, Oregon

*Lola, thank you for renewing your membership. Support of the Society from people like you are making it possible for us to preserve the past of Colorado City. We hope that you will be able to plan a trip to Colorado and to the Museum. We are very pleased with the Museum and the magnificent renovation of the Church.*

*If you noticed many changes when you were here in 1987, you will be impressed with the continued changes and the overall preservation of the Old Colorado City business district and its designation as a National Historic Site.*

Dear OCCHS,

On Thursday, January 14th, the Colorado Springs City Council will honor Dave Hughes for his contributions to the City, particularly with respect to his participation in the Old Colorado City preservation effort. A proclamation recognizing his efforts will be presented to City Council for their consideration; the resolution will call for a plaque to be placed in Old Colorado City that acknowledges his efforts. All citizens are invited to attend this recognition.

An on-site ceremony will be held after the plaque is placed; more information will be forwarded as plans are developed.

Tim Scanlon  
TScanlon@ci.colospgs.co.us

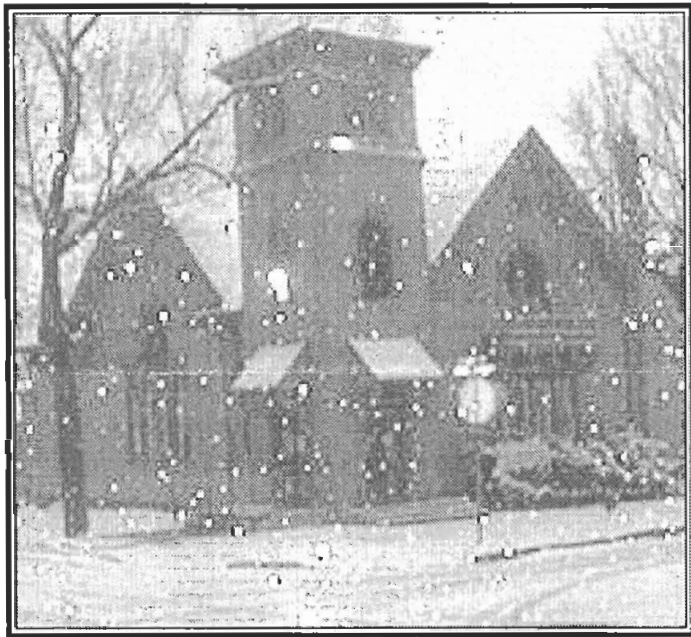
*Thank you Tim for this e-mail. The Old Colorado City Historical Society is very proud to have Dave Hughes as a very active and involved member of our organization. His knowledge of the Old Colorado City history and this area is immense and we value his knowledge and input to us.*

*Editors note: This recognition occurred at the Colorado Springs City Council. Dave was recognized and in his honor, a pathway/alley on the westside will be named after him. (See the article on this recognition on page 5 of this newsletter).*

**Events.....continued from Front Page.....**

***B&B Tour (continued)***

This event is sponsored each year by the Westside Innkeepers Association and is in connection with the National Bed & Breakfast Week. All proceeds from the tour go to OCCHS to acquire needed items for the Museum. In the past years, we have been able to purchase furniture for the Center, bookcases for the library, and the new outside sign. The Society again says a big thank you to the Innkeepers for their commitment to this annual event and to *ALL* of the OCCHS volunteers who made the tour a success again this year.



*1st Snow of the Season - December 1998*



*Christmas at the History Center*

photos by Gordon Gray

***Holiday Decorations*** for the History Center were done by a dedicated group of volunteers and we have received many very positive comments from visitors and local residents on how nice the center looks for the holiday season. Kathy Hruble, owner of Kris Kringle Shop in Old Colorado City, again this year provided the Christmas tree for the Center and all the magnificent decorations. Thank you Kathy and Lori, who helped Kathy, for your annual contribution. Thanks to the following volunteers who spruced up the Center with lights, ornaments, candles and other festive Holiday decorations: LaRue Ebersole, Agnes Johnson, Paul Idleman, Mid Kolstad, Becky and Gordon Gray.

standing review of historic country churches in many small communities throughout Colorado. Both of these fine books are available for purchase in the OCCHS Museum Bookstore.

***Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale.*** On November 21st OCCHS held a Craft Show and Bake Sale, organized by OCCHS member Jan Knox. It was a busy Saturday in Colorado Springs with many holiday craft shows and events throughout the city. The show had 18 vendors who displayed their handmade crafts. Many of our members brought homemade goodies to sell. The event was a success and to the volunteers and Jan goes a big *Thank You*.

# CHRISTMAS IN COLORADO CITY IN THE DAYS OF THE PIONEER

"Christmas along in the sixties was a day of great gladness to us boys reared in Colorado City," said C. W. Kinsman yesterday.

"True we did not have what boys now get for presents, but the simple things we did get brought just as much joy to our young hearts. I remember once when we hung up our stockings beside the wide fireplace, Santa Claus brought us a big red apple. They were the first we children had ever seen, and I shall never forget its delicious flavor. I think I kept my apple a week to look at before I ate it.

"There was a log church where Rouse's shoe shop now stands and it was there I first saw a Christmas tree. It was lit with tiny red candles and held presents for the boys such as suspenders, neckties and yarn scarfs.

"It was not uncommon for boys to go barefoot in the early days until after Christmas and then sometimes we got a pair of red top boots with copper toes for a present. A boy with red top boots felt that he was almost a millionaire. We always had plenty of buffalo and cranberries kescreoshrdletaohrdletaion venison, but one Christmas we had cranberries to eat with them and I thought they were the most wonderful fruit in the world. We never knew what an orange or lemon was until after the railroad was built, and as for an overcoat, I never owned on until I was 21 years of age. It was a Christmas present from my parents and I felt very awkward in it."

*From a news clipping, circa 1905  
Our Christmas card from Richard Goudie*

## Dave Hughes Recognized by the Colorado Springs City Council

In November, the Colorado Springs City Council recognized Dave Hughes for his major contributions to the preservation of Old Colorado City.

The Council issued a resolution commemorating the contributions of Dave. This document outlined the following: In the 1970s, as Managing Director of the West Colorado Springs Commercial Club, Dave recognized the historic and economic development potential of Old Colorado City. He skillfully participated in the merger of public and private interests in creating Old Colorado City as an example of economic development using its historic character. He worked with private interests in the city to gain their financial support of this redevelopment project. The Old Colorado City commercial redevelopment project was the cornerstone of the overall

revitalization that has taken place in the entire Westside neighborhood. As a result, the Old Colorado City area has blossomed as a major site of historic and commercial interest to residents and visitors.

Dave has served as a pioneer in the use of personal computers in telecommunications and served the City as a member of the Telecommunications Policy Advisory Committee.

The Council therefore designated the walkway at the easterly end of the platted alley located between West Colorado Avenue and West Pikes Peak Avenue, and between 25th and 26th Streets as the "DAVE HUGHES CYBERPATH". A formal ceremony will take place at the location on January 14, at which time a plaque will be placed.

*Congratulations Dave!!!*

### CRITICAL NEED AT THE MUSEUM FOR VOLUNTEERS

#### Creation of Our Data Base

We have a need for people to help us enter into the data base all the information on each and every item in our collection. If you can type, you can help us.

#### Docents

People to help the Museum tell the story of our history are needed. We need people who can give tours and lectures in the Museum.

#### Researchers

We need help in researching the many requests that we receive for information. This is in the areas of Old Colorado City history and photo identification.

#### What Can You DO??

Start by calling Paul at the Center and telling him that you would be interested in volunteering. Training programs will be set up for each of the areas.

# WEST SIDE MEMORIES

## TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

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

¶ We beg to call the attention of our Town Trustees to the Trap-door nuisance which threatens us. The sidewalks, we take it, are public property, and ought to be left intact for the use of the public. Already, however, we have two or three great pit-falls on the principal streets, and, if property-owners are thus allowed to encroach upon the sidewalks in front of their lots, there will soon be nothing left for foot-passengers but the ditches. We also beg to suggest that those who have put down wooden sidewalks should be required to keep them in good repair; in some places they are now very dangerous. In a town where there will always be so many strangers, the foot-ways ought to be kept in especially good order. 10/116 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Major McAllister has a box of uncommonly fine potatoes displayed in his office. We understand that they are Early Goodrich and were grown by Mr. C. R. Husted. 10/18 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Messrs. Green & Stilzer make quite a show of game in front of the Meat Market on Pike's Peak Avenue--Mountain Sheep and Bear among the rest. They were killed on Thursday on the other side of Pike's Peak. One of the sheep weighed over two hundred and fifty pounds. 10/18 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ We hear that people are continually breaking open the Pound and releasing cattle which have been impounded by the Town Herder. Cannot something be done to bring these pound-breakers and law breakers to justice? There is very little encouragement for a public functionary to do his duty, if after all his trouble, he finds his work of no avail. 9/13 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Considerable improvements at Manitou are to be noted. The entire new billiard hall close to the Hotel is nearly finished; it has rather too much upper story to it otherwise, it has a very good appearance. Grace Greenwood's residence is about completed, and makes a tasteful, though unpretentious little cottage. George J. Hanley has almost finished his new store, which is quite an imposing feature. The Bath-House has undergone repairs and improvements. Mr. Nye has opened a Notion Store. 10/18 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Brick or stone, with sheet iron, instead of shingles, for roof-covering, are henceforth to be the rule in Colorado Springs. All the less work for the Fire Company 9/6 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

### ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO Fall 1898

¶ A party of Colorado City people spent a delightful hour in the plunge bath at Manitou, this past Tuesday evening. Among those present were: C. D. Taylor and wife, John M. Jackson and wife, R. T. Godfrey and wife, Harry Kneller and wife, Ed Craig and wife, W. F. Benedict and wife, William Richards and wife, W. P. Epperson and wife, Joseph Edell and wife, Mrs. M. W. Stone, Miss Florence, Mrs. Dan Yellowlee, Isaac Kissell, and George Carruthers. 9/3 *Colorado City Iris*

¶ For the occasion of Colorado Day at the Omaha Exposition, September 9, the Gulf Road will sell tickets from Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo at rates of one cent per mile for the round trip, and from other points in Colorado at one fare rate up to the above points added to the one cent per mile rate. Tickets will be sold on September 7, and will be good for ten days. 9/3 *Colorado City Iris*

¶ The practice of small boys shooting birds in this city has become unbearable to many of our citizens. It is not an uncommon sight to see a half dozen boys armed with bean shooters pelting away at birds in the yards of our citizens, oft-times striking the houses. Many of these boys are impudent and saucy when asked to stop shooting. The complaint has become general and several citizens threaten prosecutions for bird shooting, which is made punishable by a severe fine under the state law. 9/3 *Colorado City Iris*

¶ The new Colorado Springs militia company will be sworn into the service of the state early next week. 9/3 *Colorado City Iris*

¶ Colorado City was represented in the flower carnival parade by the little children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Minium. They drove a little donkey hitched to a very small vehicle profusely decorated with sunflowers. 9/3 *Colorado City Iris*

¶ C. W. Kinsman has about completed the organization of a company which proposed the manufacture of plaster paris and hydraulic cement in this city. Mr. Kinsman is familiar with the business and no doubt will succeed in manufacturing a superior quality of plaster paris and cement. 9/3 *Colorado City Iris*

¶ The city council of Colorado Springs has made a tax levy of 17.5 mills for 1899. This levy will raise a fund of \$111,243.03 on a valuation of \$6,356,745. The committee on the fire department reported in favor of adding a steam fire engine to the fire equipment of the city and were vested with power to make the purchase of the engine manufactured by the American Fire Engine company of Seneca Falls, N.Y., which has a capacity of 800 gallons per minute and weighs 7,000 pounds. It cost \$4,500 delivered. 10/22 *Colorado City Iris*

# WESTSIDE MEMORIES

Success is rapidly coming to another Colorado City enterprise and the man in charge is not slow in making the most of his opportunities. We refer to the Pike's Peak Brick company. This company is now filling big orders in the Cripple Creek district and is figuring on an order of 2,000,000 for one of the big mining companies up there. In order to meet the great demand for the superior brick this company is making, Mr. Morrison, the manager of the company, has contracted for the most complete and modern plant of brick making machinery in Colorado, which will be put in place as soon as it arrives from the factory. 10/22 *Colorado City Iris*.

The potato crop on the divide in the neighborhood of Monument, Table Rock and Eastonville is reported short--hardly worth digging. Further east, along the Rock Island road, the crop is reported good. 10/20 *Colorado City Iris*

While riding a burro, Sunday, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Credit of Grand View, fell from the back of the animal, breaking her arm in two places near the wrist. Dr. Winternitz set the broken member. 10/29 *Colorado City Iris*

Gus I James is attending school at the state agricultural college at Ft. Collins, and is well pleased with the school. Gus was given a place on the memorial service program at the Ft. Collins opera house a week ago last Sunday, when memorial exercises were held in honor of the Colorado soldiers who fell at Manila. On that occasion he sang "Break the News to Mother" in a manner which brought forth a storm of applause which resulted in his recall. 10/29 *Colorado City Iris*

A great many new houses have been erected in West Colorado City this summer and fall. They are without exception, all good houses, and in most instances, are provided with very modern conveniences. 10/1 *Colorado City Iris*

## SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO Fall 1923

The weather last Monday was ideal for the automobile races on the Pikes Peak auto road. Glen Shultz, Colorado Springs racer, won first in 18:47 3-5, which was the fastest time since 1916, when Ralph Ulford set the record at 18:24.8. 9/7 *Colorado Springs Independent*

Motion picture camera men from Denver and Colorado Springs will take pictures of the equal rights memorial pageant at the rehearsal next Sunday in the Garden of the Gods, also at the main performance Sunday, September 23. Representatives from the Pathe, Universal and Fox Film companies will be present. 9/14 *Colorado Springs Independent*.

The edict at Glockner sanitarium that bobbed hair among nurses is taboo, has brought forth quite a bit of comment, pro and con. Many people will agree that a hospital is no place for a flapper, unless following an automobile accident, when she would probably be stripped of all her flapperism but the bobbed hair, and maybe that, where she scalped in the spill, as sometimes happens. If there is really any place for a flapper, it is not in a hospital. When flapperism came in the door, modesty went out the window. 9/14 *Colorado Springs Independent*

Colorado Avenue was a busy thoroughfare early Sunday morning. The street railway company pressed into service open cars, closed cars and dinky cars. There was a rush of humanity, equal to an old-time circus day. However, it was a Lord's performance instead of a worldly affair -- the sunrise prayer meeting in the Garden of the Gods. 9/14 *Colorado Springs Independent*

The Colorado City W.C.T.U. met in their hall Friday, September 7, and elected officers for the ensuing year, as follows: President, Mrs Zoe Anderson; corresponding secretary,

Miss Ada Wolverton; recording secretary, Mrs. Faye Reifel; treasurer, Mrs. Evelyn Griffin. Superintendents of departments gave their reports of all work done. The organization has had a very successful year, having gained 73 active members and 14 honorary members. Their meetings are always open, and the public is invited. 9/21 *Colorado Springs Independent*

## FIFTY YEARS AGO Fall 1948

West Colorado Avenue had a scene Monday forenoon that was very interesting. Though marring traffic somewhat, everything moved along nicely, especially a five-room house, pulled by an army truck. Perhaps 20 or more men, including city employees, assisted traffic in both directions. Two men were on the roof as lookouts. The house was built at 3709 West Colorado Avenue by Mr. and Mrs. G.O. Leibold, pioneer residents of that area, perhaps 30 years ago. Their home before that was just southeast of Adams Crossing. He died in 1922 and she lives in California. The house was moved to the Whittier school vicinity. The owner of the land will build a larger home on the property. 9/23 *Colorado Springs Independent*

Clarence Kinsman, of San Luis, Obispo, California, came last week on a visit to relatives and old friends. He grew up here and was a Colorado City business man for years, going to California to reside about 40 years ago. 9/23 *Colorado Springs Independent*

While not as much occupied now as in the busy summer season, the West Side free parking lot on the south side in the 2500 block on West Colorado Avenue is still used and is a safety place from the much traffic on West Colorado Avenue, which is one of the busy thoroughfares of the region. Free parking is sponsored by the West Side Commercial Club. 10/21 *Colorado Springs Independent*

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# OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORY CENTER

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Jan 8**

**General Meeting & Program Feb 12**

**Paul Idleman**

*"Old Colorado City"*

Slide program and talk on the history of Colorado City & Old Town.

Refreshments begin at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting & Program begin at 11:00 a.m. at the History Center

**General Meeting & Program**

**Doris Wolfe**

*"A Prairie Schooner to Fountain"*

Slide program and talk based on a diary of a wagon trip to Fountain, Colorado.

Refreshments begin at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting & Program begin at 11:00 a.m. at the History Center

### WISH LIST

*We have many needs for the Museum, hence our "Wish" list. If you can help us to accomplish some of these wishes, please contact Paul at the History Center.*

**A small safe**

**A Mr. Coffee machine for the kitchen**

**Mannequins for the Museum displays**

**\$25 each week to pay for cleaning the Center**

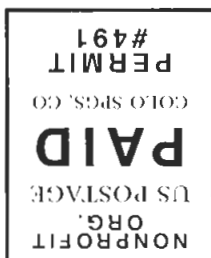
**Metal shelves for Assessioning Room**

**Additional display cases**

**Racks, small cases for Book & Gift Shop**

**Traffic line routing poles/cords**

**Asphalt the parking lot**



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