

JULY 1998

VISIT THE PIONEERS AT FAIRVIEW CEMETERY

OCCHS SPONSORING "CEMETERY CRAWL" AT FAIRVIEW CEMETERY

The opportunity to visit with the pioneers and former residents of Old Colorado City will present itself on August 22nd and 23rd with the "Fairview Cemetery Crawl". The public will be invited to tour Fairview Cemetery, 1000 South 26th Street, and hear the stories of our early days from the people who were there.

OCCHS members and other volunteers will assume the identity of a person now buried in Fairview Cemetery. All of the volunteers will locate themselves by the gravesite of the individual they are portraying. Each group of "crawl" visitors will follow a mapped route through the cemetery stopping at designated points. As the visitors stop by the gravesite, the volunteer will relate

their subject's story. This will be the first time this type of event has been attempted in Colorado Springs. Ed and Nancy Bathke brought the idea to us and the response has already been very good. Stories in the *Pike's Peak Journal* and on KOAA Channels 5 & 30 have generated a lot of interest. We already have many volunteers signed up, but we still need about ten more "actors" to make it a fulfilling event. Jerry Jekel and Paul Idleman have been meeting with Will DeBoer, Superintendent of Evergreen and Fairview Cemeteries for Colorado Springs, to work out the details of this event. All proceeds will benefit OCCHS and the History Center. If you would enjoy participating in our "Fairview Cemetery Crawl", please call 636-1225.



The resting place for Anthony Bott, one of the founders of Colorado City, is located on the northeast corner of the property he donated to the city for Fairview Cemetery.

digital photo by Dave Wolverton

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY HAS MANY STORIES

Many people, members and non-members have already signed up to volunteer for our "Fairview Cemetery Crawl", but we still need more. The event is scheduled for August 22nd and 23rd. The event committee is still meeting to determine the best time to bring the public in. It will most likely be from late afternoon until early evening.

The admission cost will be \$5 for adults and \$2 for children under 12 accompanied by an adult. OCCHS members will receive a 10% discount.

Volunteers for the Old Colorado City Historical Society's *Fairview Cemetery Crawl* will have many people available to choose from as

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Old Colorado City Historical Society

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

WEST WORD

VOLUME 13 JULY 1998 NUMBER 3

PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF ALMOST EVERY MONTH BY THE
OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
OCCHS ©1998

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

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th DAY OF EACH MONTH.

MISSION

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

MEMBERSHIPS

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

Annual memberships classifications are as follows:

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

Funds from a Lifetime Membership are placed into a Perpetuity/Endowment Fund to be used only for projects which have been approved by two-thirds of the membership. Only the interest will be used for current expenses. We welcome gifts to this fund, which will be credited to the donor or as a memorial.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Robert Heinich	448-9001
Vice President	Dave Hughes	636-2040
Secretary	Betsy Evans	635-4782
Treasurer	Don Kallaus	630-0322
	Beverly Disch	634-5023
	Jack Ekstrom	473-7515
	Agnes Johnson	633-8040
	Joanne Karlson	635-4706
	Mel McFarland	533-1311
	Leon Young	633-2621

MEETINGS

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

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

Please phone 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 MEETING - September 11, 1998
at Trinity Methodist Church
11:00 a.m.

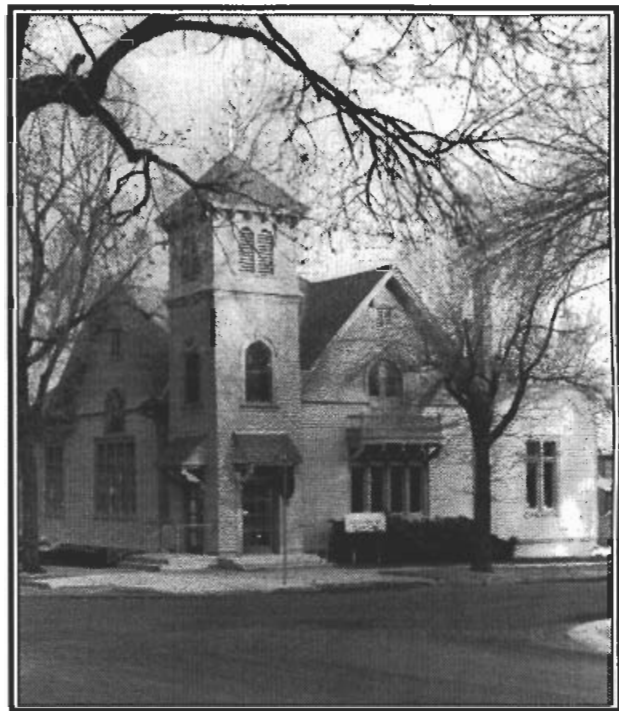


photo by Don Kallaus

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

Summer Hours

10:00 a.m. TO 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED MONDAYS

Visit our web site for even more history!

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORY CENTER COMPLETES ITS FIRST YEAR

The Old Colorado City History Center opened its doors to the public on May 17th, 1997. We have made a great deal of progress during our first year of operations and we have much to be proud of. We can finally see the results of all our fundraising, hard work and planning. The History Center is now a functioning museum, research and education facility.

As Director for the History Center, I have tried to prepare our facilities to be a comfortable and enjoyable place for our volunteers to work. Hopefully, I have also provided direction to each of the various committees to complete their tasks. It is, however, the dedication of our volunteers and board members that keeps the History Center working on a day to day basis.

The operation of our History Center is a big job. Financially, we have been able to pay all of our bills on time, plus get ahead a little with some major purchases of inventory for our Book & Gift Shop. We received a grant early this year to pay for our general expenses, such as utilities, phone, insurance, accounting and security system, until the end of the year. Our garbage pickup has been generously donated by **Waste Management**. We were recently notified by El Pomar that they are awarding us a \$10,000 grant to continue developing our website/database project. Our Grants Committee is now looking at other possible applications.

Our 1997-98 budget was followed almost to the penny. The current year's budget is equally as ambitious and illustrates our need to increase our fundraising for the 1998-99 season. We are already planning many new events and programs to help us meet these goals. We hope you will participate.

While we do have many volunteers devoting a minimum of 2 to 3 hours a week, we do need more help to keep up with the monumental task of running our facilities six days a week.

With the amount of traffic we now receive at the History Center, keeping up with the cleaning and maintenance is a necessity. Our beautiful hardwood floors are swept regularly and buffed periodically. They are waxed every three months. The glass cleaner we use for our display cases is very effective, but we still need to clean them every week. Just running the feather duster over the cases and exhibits daily keeps the museum looking good. The restrooms, on the other hand, need to be maintained and cleaned several times a week. We need members who can donate a few hours a week to help with these chores on a regular basis. Contact the History Center at 636-1225 to help.

Other heavy duty type of maintenance jobs have been done by OCCHS members **Chuck Cobb**, **Sandy Knox** and **Gene Dienst**. They've always been there to help with a wide variety of problems such as plumbing, electrical, minor construction, moving heavy objects, installations and yard work. We especially keep Chuck very busy on a regular

basis. Our maintenance demands will continue to grow as time passes. It's already evident, for example, that our the exterior is going to need going to need painting, perhaps as early as next year. Anyone can donate two or three hours a week toward our maintenance is encouraged to come to the History Center and volunteer to help.

Our Book & Gift Shop has really grown in the past months. The Board of Directors voted to 'bite the bullet' and allow the Book & Gift Shop to retain all of its earnings from the first of this year to reinvest in building its inventory. **Thelma Williams**, **Sue Idleman** and **Jan Knox** have been hard at work meeting with merchandise dealers, Indian tribes and attending gift shows. **Gene** and **Ann Dienst** joined them at a Denver gift show to shop for merchandise for us. The Book & Gift Shop is now well stocked with items to appeal to every tourist and shopper. Thanks to donations of book shelves and display counters from **Jan Knox**, **Leon Young**, **Thelma Williams** and **Gene Dienst**, it's looking beautiful, too.

I can never sing enough praise about **Bev Disch**. Bev is our volunteer coordinator who keeps our Book & Gift Shop staffed. With her telephone "glued" to her ear every month, Bev regularly calls our members to schedule their time in the shop. In addition to greeting the public and handling sales, our Book & Gift Shop volunteers also serve as the visitor's main contact with our historical society in person and by telephone. Their position is very important and Bev does a wonderfully thorough job of keeping it all running.

One job we need to consider seeking volunteers for is the docent. With only one volunteer in the Book & Gift Shop, it's difficult for them to leave the sales counter and show visitors around the Main Exhibit Room. We've learned that if some time is spent with our visitors telling them about Old Colorado City history and our society, they are very appreciative and leave a donation or shop our Book & Gift Shop for a purchase. Some have even become members of OCCHS.

Now that our History Center has completed its first year and gained much knowledge through experience, it is a good time to begin a docent program. This will involve training and time. Please call if can donate your time as docent for a three hour shift every week.

We've had some great publicity during this first year in the newspapers, magazines and on all three major television stations. It's not an easy task, though, and we really need a small group of volunteers to keep up with our publicity on a timely basis. If you're good at writing press releases and dealing with the media, please give us a call.

New Board of Directors member, Jack Ekstrom, is busy at work designing a new brochure for us. The Grants Committee is looking for possible donors to apply to for the production of the brochure.

We also need a volunteer to serve as correspondence secretary. We get a large amount of letters to write, correspondence to answer, telephone calls to return and paper-

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FOR YOUR INTEREST

Election Results

The new Board of Directors began their duties soon after the May 8th election. **Beverley Disch**, **Robert Heinich**, **Mel McFarland** and **Leon Young** were elected to retain their board positions. Newly elected to the board were **Agnes Johnson** and **Jack Ekstrom**. At their first meeting following the election, the Board met to elect its officers. **Bob Heinich** was elected to continue as President and **Dave Hughes** was elected Vice President. **Betsy Evans** was elected Secretary and **Don Kallaus** will serve another year as Treasurer. **Patricia Joy** has left the Board of Directors due to her busy schedule and the Board is discussing and soliciting candidates for her replacement. **Joanne Karlson** is beginning the last year of her two-year term as board member. Joanne and **Werner** will soon be moving to Oregon for a few years and her seat on the Board of Directors will become vacant soon. Many of us are already dreading the day that the Karlsons move. They will be missed more than we can say.

Treasure Sale

Our May 30th Treasure Sale was our most successful sale yet thanks to **Betty Baker** and all who helped her. Thanks to **Mary Idleman** and **Lois Carr** who helped price the items and to **Chuck Cobb** for help setting up the sale and working it most of the day. This one day sale raised about \$470 for our History Center. Thank you, Betty, for all your hard work.

Items are needed for our next Treasure Sale to be held on September 5th. Please bring your used-but-not-abused treasures anytime to the History Center. We have tax donation forms for you in the office. Our Treasure Sale is one of our most reliable fundraisers. You are supporting the operation of our History Center when you think of us with your donations. Call 636-1225 for more information.

History Center on the Library Channel

Most of us who live in Colorado Springs have enjoyed the programs shown on local cable television's **The Library Channel**. The Library Channel is operated by the **Community Video Center of the Pikes Peak Library District** and lately they've been broadcasting vintage local films for their program, "*Colorado Springs - The Way It Was*". Thanks to the generosity of a couple of our members, several of the Library Channel's programs are being presented by the Old Colorado City History Center.

Ira Current has entertained and educated us many times with his stories and photographs published in *West Word*. Ira has shared several of his films with us, too. His films, "*Four Wheels*" on the early Chug Races and "*Three Days at Nelson's Camp*", which follows Ira and his friends up the 7 Bridges trail to Frank Nelson's camp, are real gems. We all thought that nothing could top those 1928-29 films. Then Ira sent us a collection of film shorts on every subject from ants to bottle washing to digging for artifacts on Fremont's Fort. Recently he sent us a priceless 1930's sound film documenting Midland Terminal passenger and freight trains running to Cripple Creek. We are also showing on the Library Channel a short film unearthed by Ed and **Nancy Bathke**. This early film shows a tour of Cave of the Winds and trout fishing at Seven Falls. Thanks to Ira, Ed and Nancy the History Center is gaining notoriety as an organization that is serious about history.

THE LIBRARY CHANNEL Schedule of Programs

All programs begin at 7:00 P.M. and are subject to change. The Library Channel is produced by the Community Video Center of the Pikes Peak Library District and is available only to customers of Century Communications in Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs on Channel 17.

- July 17, 18 & 19** **"The Best of Gary McMahan"**
The best of the Colorado cowboy poet and musician from his past performances at the Great Pikes Peak Cowboy Poetry Gathering.
- July 22** **Colorado Springs - The Way It Was "Cripple Creek"**
Rare footage of Cripple Creek from the late 1920's through the 1960's.
- July 24, 25 & 26** **"The Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame"**
Documentary focusing on the history of PRCA and their Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs.
- July 29** **"The Evolution of the Longhorn Cattle and the Cowboy"**
Presented by Ed Honnen. The history of longhorn cattle and its role in the cowboy legacy.
- July 31-Aug 2** **"The Best of the Great Pikes Peak Cowboy Poetry Gathering"**
Features the best poets and performances from the past nine years of the event.
- August 5** **"Kind Nature's Scenery To Portray"**
Written & produced by Paul Idleman, this documentary chronicles the life & work of 19th Century photographer William E. Hook.
- August 7, 8 & 9** **Baxter Black**
Features an interview and selected performances from this legendary cowboy poet.
- August 12** **"Village on the Divide - a History of Palmer Lake"**
A concise history of this unique Front Range community.
- Aug 14, 15 & 16** **Colorado Springs - The Way It Was "Curious Colorado"**
This extremely rare film, produced in 1938 by Spencer Penrose, features wonderful footage of the Cog Road, the Incline, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, and Penrose himself.

FOR YOUR INTEREST

OCCHS is also very fortunate to have **Steve Antonuccio** and **Dave Rickert** as members. Steve and Dave are two-thirds of the team at the Community Video Center and they've been helping us with video projects. Dave recorded **George White's** recent program, "*Hermits in the Pikes Peak Region*", on digital video. As usual, George's program was wonderful and Dave professionally captured it all. We hope to produce this as our next History Center presentation on The Library Channel.

Oh yes. We're still working on getting the other third of the Community Video Center team to join OCCHS. We'll get him. The Library Channel program schedule for the next few weeks is printed on the previous page.

Herbal Renewal Committee

Our Herbal Renewal Committee has been hard at work to complete the first stage of our demonstration herb gardens. The area between our south sidewalk and the parking lot is looking great with the herbs that have been planted. The committee received the soil and plants they needed through donations from nurseries and individuals. **Mary Idleman** and **Chuck Cobb** donated about half of the lumber used to edge the planting area and Chuck installed them for the committee. The balance of the edging ties were purchased by the Herbal Renewal Committee with proceeds raised from their fundraising project.

The Herbal Renewal Committee is raising their own funds to complete their mission to enhance the grounds of the OCCHS History Center through the establishment of an educational demonstration garden of historically significant herbs and native plants. They are selling Earthday cleaning products and using the profits to fund the planting and landscaping of our demonstration herb gardens.

The History Center uses Earthday Solutions Geo International products to clean our glass, wood and even artifacts. Not only do these products do a wonderful and thorough job, they're also environmentally safe and non-toxic. Earthday products offer a special fundraising program for non-profits and our Herbal Renewal Committee hopes to raise their needed funds with this program. We at the History Center highly endorse these cost effective products and hope you will try them yourself to help out our Herbal Renewal Committee efforts. Please read the flyer inside this issue of *West Word* for all the details.

Thank you to everyone on our Herbal Renewal Committee for all of their planning and hard work. **Judith Yarrow** and **Alice Mayfield** co-chair the committee with members **Connie Peterson**, **Robin McKinney**, **Ann Donovan**, **Vivian LeFebvre**, **Kay Arnold** and **Michael Read**. Our thanks also to **Carol Stoodly**, who had to leave the committee and **Shawn Schulman** of the Pikes Peak Herb Association for their help, planning and advice.

Computer Center Benefits From Donations

Our Computer Center now looks good enough to show the world thanks to a very generous donation from OCCHS

corporate member **Charlie Paterson Construction**. Up to now we have been using folding tables and old shelves to set up our working area. Thanks to Charlie's donation and the hard work of **John Kelly**, who did the woodworking, we now have custom-made, light oak desks, cabinets and shelves to match the custom oak furniture in our Research Library donated by the **Westside Innkeepers Association**.

Our computer technology is attracting the interest of many people. Recently, National Public Radio was by to see what we're doing for an eight minute story they broadcast on spread spectrum technology. Our Computer Room needed a facelift for the visiting luminaries. With this beautiful donation from Charlie Paterson, we now look as professional as we are. It's also so much more comfortable and efficient for our Computer Room volunteers. Thank you, Charlie, for your wonderful donation and help. And thank you, John, for all your hard work.

Paul and Sue Idleman have donated over \$2000 worth of computer equipment to help meet the growing demands in our Computer Center. The gift includes a graphics capable computer with a 15-inch monitor and many accessories, including a removable Syquest drive. They also donated the 17-inch monitor which we use to display our website to the public in the Main Exhibit Room. Up to now we have been keeping our mailing list and financial software on the same computer as our website. We can now move all that to its own computer. It will also allow for volunteers to help with the production of our newsletter at the History Center and greatly aid our data entry volunteers.

Esther Hubbard

OCCHS member **Esther Hubbard** recently passed away after a long illness. Esther was a teacher in Pueblo and sister of OCCHS Charter Member, **Virginia Cox**. We send our condolences to Virginia and the rest of Esther's family.

Farewell Reverend Mosher

We are also sad to report the passing of **Reverend Clifford L. Mosher**. Reverend Mosher was pastor of the First Baptist Church from 1947 to 1968 and visited our museum several times. He was always so pleased with the renovations we had completed on our building.

Visitor's To Our Center

Our third guest sign-in book is almost full and it's always interesting to look through the pages and see the wide variety of visitors we are getting. Thanks to **Leland Feitz** and a slow day in the Book & Gift Shop, we can share some of this information with you. Our current guestbook started on April 7th. Since that time we have had visitors from thirty-four different states, the District of Columbia, and seven countries. Foreign visitors have included Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Ireland, Norway and Chili. The history of Old Colorado City is reaching the world.

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CYANIDE



Back when buying sodium cyanide from Ferd F. Koch's druggist store was as easy as buying pain reliever, a young amateur chemist named Ira Current discovers the importance of the deadly chemical in Old Colorado City's history.

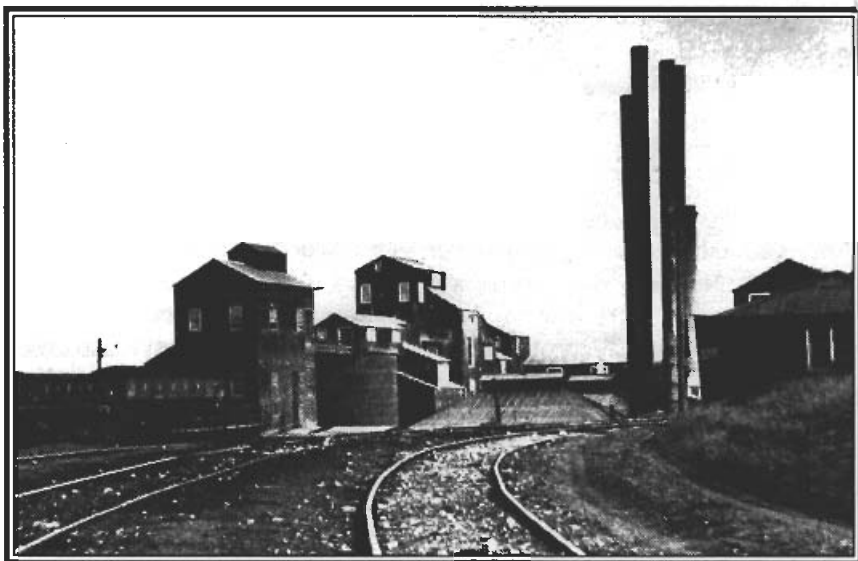
story & photographs by Ira Current

Two common elements, one a solid, the other a gas are united to form a crystal radical. Add hydrogen and you have hydrocyanic acid, a gas, one of the most deadly poisons characterized by an odor like that of bitter almonds, that when inhaled causes violent death. It forms benign compounds with iron, sometimes making up the image in the old blue prints. The Greek word for blue is cyanos, hence the term cyanide.

When I was only in seventh grade, as an amateur chemist I purchased my laboratory chemicals from Ferd F. Koch, druggist on West Colorado Avenue in Colorado Springs. An experiment, now long forgotten, required sodium cyanide, a solid compound. My druggist friend came out from his apothecary digs and placed a small brown paper bag on the counter containing three walnut size spheres, called eggs, of the chemical.

He said, "Kid, you know what this is don't you?" When I answered, "Yes", his reply was "That'll be ten cents."

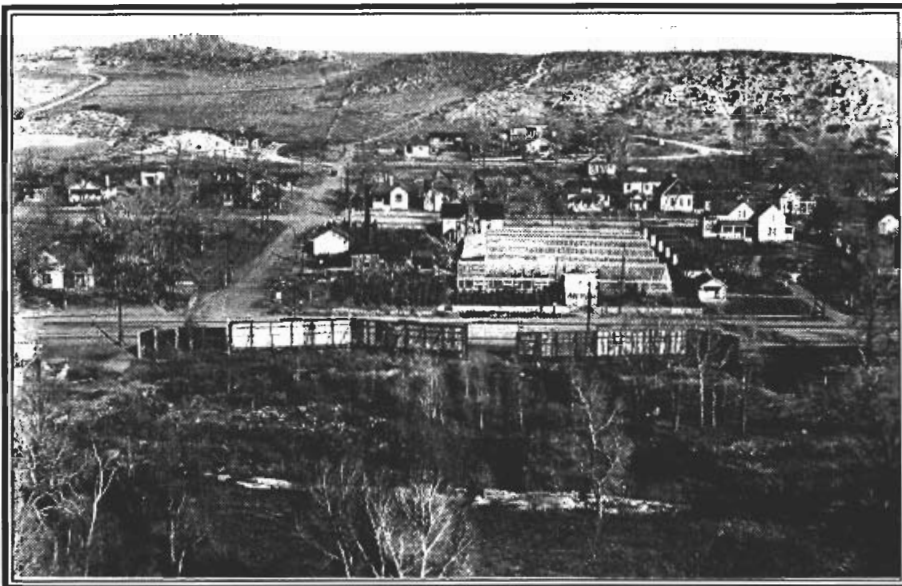
Signs posted outside the Golden Cycle Mill, not far from where we lived, declared "KEEP OUT" and "POSITIVELY NO TRESPASSING". This did not deter my young colleagues and me from walking the planks over the large round tanks containing an



The Golden Cycle Mill in 1930

agitated slurry of powdered and roasted gold ore being treated with sodium cyanide solution to extract the gold. Zinc shavings would then be introduced into the filtered solution to plate out the gold that would later be smelted to eliminate the zinc.

I was an older lad of eighteen years working at Ripley's Green Houses when one of my assignments was to fumigate the rose house. One-quart size jars containing about three inches of sulfuric acid were placed at fifteen foot intervals in each of two aisles separating three benches of rose plants. Carrying a large paper bag containing cyanide eggs, I walked down one aisle, depositing three eggs in



(left) Ripley's Greenhouses, right center, in 1927. Our home is just behind and to the left of Ripley's; just to the right of the tall smoke-stack near center. Sister Maloa still lives there. (below) Father Park and Mother Anna lived in this home at 703 Cyanide Avenue in Canõn City during part of their retirement.

each of the jars. Then back up the other aisle to fill the remaining ones. Leaving the room, I closed the door and applied tape to eliminate the possibility of any gas escaping into the rest of the greenhouse.

Later I worked for Stewart Brothers photofinishing and photo-engraving shop. Both half-tone and line engravings required high contrast negatives to be made from the original copy as an intermediate step in making the engraved zinc and copper plates used for letterpress printing. The two photo-engravers at Stewart's employed the wet collodion process in making these plates. Excessive collodion, a relative of gun cotton, accumulated around the processing sink. After development of the wet plates, fixing was accomplished by swabbing the surface with cotton soaked in a solution of sodium cyanide. Then the darker center area of the plate would be reduced to match the peripheral image using a 10-times stronger solution. As a young chemist just out of high school I marveled at the way they handled the cyanide solutions, sometimes eating a sandwich while a rush job was being carried out. Of course, this was nothing compared to the occasional times one of their cigarettes, laid on accumulated collodion at the edge of the sink, would start a fire that would be extinguished with any water solution at hand! I also noted that these two workers, one much older than the other appeared to be cyanosed. But they lived and worked long after I left Stewart's.

Nevertheless, when I later used the wet collodion process to photograph John Chancellor and Louise King on the Today Show while acting as the Civil War photographer Matthew Brady, I fixed the plates with the more mundane hypo solution such as that used widely today.

During college I saw five students in a chemistry laboratory session rendered unconscious after an accident with cyanide gas. Fortunately they survived, and



as far as I know never suffered any permanent damage.

Later I observed my wife's Uncle Carl, a jeweler in Rhode Island, using a cyanide solution to clean silver and gold pieces. To him this was accessory to his job, just as was the correct use of strong acids, fluxes, and torches.

One summer, after our young family had spent a morning touring the gold mines at Leeds, South Dakota, we picnicked in their city park. The recycled trash drums were all labeled "Calcium Cyanide". Safe enough probably, but what hazard might remain with a sloppy clean-up after original use?

When my mother and father, Anna and Park, moved to Canõn City, Colorado for retirement, their address became 703 Cyanide Avenue. Was this name derived from the familiar use of the chemical in gold ore processing, or was it due to the use of cyanide to carry out the death penalty at the Colorado State Penitentiary in Canõn City? The atonement was accomplished by dropping the same ten-cent eggs, now sometimes called 'pellets', that I obtained from Ferd F. Koch, into the same jar of acid that I used at Ripley's Green Houses.



photo by Virginia Cox

(left) Paul Idleman with Ed and Edna Shoch at the Shoch's standing-room-only program. (below) OCCHS Past President Lucille Cunningham represented our society on our trolley float in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade. We've been sharing the float with the Pike's Peak Historical Street Railway Foundation and it's a perfect way to publicize our organization. Pictured here with are (left) Carolyn d'Autremont with Lucille Cunningham, (below left) Bill Riester and John Chaney of the Street Car Foundation Carolyn is also a member of OCCHS.

Thank you, Ed & Edna Shoch

Ed and Edna Shoch presented a wonderful program at the History Center on April 26th to a standing room only crowd. Showing slides pulled from the OCCHS collection, Ed related many stories and reminisces of almost fifty years of operating Shoch's Hardware in Old Colorado City. Many of the Colorado Avenue business owners came by to see their old friends. Shoch's Hardware became a West Side landmark and the Shoch's have been missed by many since they closed their doors a few years ago. Thank you, Ed and Edna, for sharing your memories with us.

Get Well George & Ray

Two of our very active friends and members are going through some medical difficulty right now and we want to wish them a speedy recovery.

Recently, **George White** began sitting down with us for a series of video taped interviews with **Paul Idleman** and **Mark Lewis**. George took us from his first childhood vacations in Manitou Springs on through the 1920's and 30's in those first sessions. Not long ago, George fell and broke his hip. He has since had hip replacement surgery and was up taking his first steps within a few days. George is still recovering and going through physical therapy. Get well quickly, George. A lot of people miss seeing you.

Ray Campbell has almost single-handedly sorted, accessioned and filed close to two thirds of our collection of almost 25,000 photographs. Every Wednesday and Friday afternoon (sometimes Mondays) for the past 15 months Ray could be found sitting in Research Library trying to identify a photograph and squinting through his magnifying glass trying to decipher **Luther McKnight's** miniature photo notes. Ray is now being tested and treated for some health concerns and we send our wishes for a fast recovery. Hurry back, Ray. It's too quiet around here on Wednesdays and Fridays right now.

Colorado History Cyberchat Conferences

Our Colorado History Cyberchat Conferences on our website was a big success. The National Science Foundation gave us the authorization to purchase the \$700 software using the grant money they gave us because of the



photo by Paul Idleman

great response we had. OCCHS member and author **Jan Pettit** now holds the distinction of being the first pioneer ever to conduct history lectures and discussion in an Internet conference room. Jan and our other guest lecturers will continue to answer questions and comments about their subjects. Our thanks to **Ed & Nancy Bathke**, **Norman Bender**, **Phil Carson**, **Leland Feitz**, **Richard & Mary Ann Gehling**, **Dave Hughes**, **Mel McFarland**, and **Jan Pettit** being their help with this event. The incoming messages have dropped off, but we will be publicizing again soon to let everyone know that it is continuing.

Donations Accepted

The Artifacts Accessioning Committee has made wonderful progress on getting all our artifacts collection stored and protected in our storage room in the basement. **Liz Geiss** has announced that they are now ready to receive more items to add to our historical collection. Please consider donating all historically relevant items, manuscripts and photographs to help us preserve the history of Old Colorado City and the Pikes Peak region. Call 636-1225 to make an appointment to meet with us if you have items to donate.

Darkroom Committee

Our darkroom is now completed and operating. **Don Kallaus** christened its opening by printing hundreds of photos. Our deepest thanks to **Chuck Cobb**, **Gene Dienst** and **Sandy Knox** for building it for us. Don will chair the Darkroom Committee and call a meeting soon.

FOR YOUR INTEREST

MEMBERSHIPS DUE FOR RENEWAL

May	Doris & Tom Baker	Art Crawford
	Mike & Jane Baker	Bob & Lucille Damico
	Ed & Nancy Bathke	Dr. James Edwards
	Ivan Brunk	Edwina A. Foreman
	Sally Carter	Loretta Gaarder
	Concours Cars	Marica Hefti
	Elinor Fry	Mark Hightower
	Edmund & Lila Gorab	Jerry & Helen Jekel
	James Hubbard	Gary Luce
	Ken & Mid Kolstad	Bill Marvin
	Aldine Lipe	Martha Ann Miller
	Alice Mayfield	Ben & Mary Modrell
	Kathy Read	James Oldman
	Alice Rockers	Dean Radice
	Rose Marie Slusher	David Swearingen
	First General Services	Kristine Van Wert
	Reeda Williamson	Clint & Shirley Waller
June	Virginia Black	Michael & Annette Whitehorne
	Lewis & Dorothy Borst	Judith Yarrow
	Jim Ciletti	Joni Young

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

The Old Elm Tree

While working in my garden of flowers,
Working alone for hours and hours,
Just overhead in an old elm tree
Sat two crows as black as can be.
They were sitting side by side.
One said "Caw", and "Caw," I replied.
For many days they talked to me,
Then they fly to the old elm tree.
One day, how quiet it seem to be,
They were not in the old elm tree.
Did a flock of crows flying by
Call to them, a new life to try?
I was lonely as I could be,
I kept looking at the old elm tree.
Then one day in the early fall,
I stopped, I listened, I heard a call.
There, on a limb, sat a crow alone.
I softly said, "Caw, caw, you're home."
Would he leave again or stay with me
All alone in the old elm tree?

by Thelma E. Williams

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - con't from page 3

work to file. Anyone who can volunteer a just few hours a week toward these duties is most welcome.

Dave Hughes and Agnes Johnson have joined Jan Knox and myself to help get our *West Word* newsletter out more timely. Many members have expressed their feeling that our newsletter is too large and grandios. Others members have stated that they love all the history and society information we put in each issue. Our Board of Directors recently voted to alternate monthly our usual 16-page *West Word* with a single sheet *West Word* containing society news and event information.

My additional duties coordinating the History Center's operations has made it extremely difficult to get *West Word* out on time. Our Membership Committee reports that many members are not renewing because they don't get the newsletter on time. While this news is disturbing, it doesn't eliminate the source of the delay problems. The amount of history-related items in the *West Word* do not contribute to the delay in any way. Jan Knox researches and supplies most of these for each newsletter. Currently I am writing the balance of everything in *West Word* myself. This time coupled with the approximately twenty hours of layout time involved makes each *West Word* a lengthy project. Agnes and Dave will begin to help with writing all of our society news. This, plus the new volunteers who are coming forward to help with operation of the History Center should free up more of my time for the production each month. This will

hopefully catch us up once and for all. Thanks for all the patience from the majority of our members as we work through our first year's growing pains. I'm extremely proud of what our *West Word* has developed into and would hate to see it reduced. What is your opinion? Is our *West Word* too big and grandios? Please write, e-mail or call us with your opinion and suggestions.

Having now completed over fourteen months as the History Center's Consulting Director, I have done all in my power to follow our Master Plan and budget to put our society's dreams into action. In the process I have grown to love this little museum and the dedicated volunteers who keep it running. I have gotten to know most of you who work at the Center and those of you who help from afar. I believe that we are a very special group of people who have accomplished a great feat. But, the hard work is far from over. Exhibits need to constantly be changed and rotated. Programs and events will always need to be planned and implemented. Historic research and study will always continue. And funds will always need to be raised. The Old Colorado City Historical Society took on some tremendous responsibilities and commitments, first when it was founded and again when it purchased the church to house its museum and operations. We have successfully been honoring these ambitious commitments since the beginning. We should all be very proud.

by Paul Idleman

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO Spring 1873

¶ COLORADO CITY—The merchants say that business is very dull. It is not very bright in any part of the Territory just at this season — The beer-sellers have put beer down to bottom prices — five cents a glass. The beer-drinkers are also putting it down — We have been favored with a view of a couple of pictures of local interest, which represent the "Past" and the "Present." In the "Past," an old settler is seen hunting grasshoppers, and, if we may believe the artist, there were giants in the earth in those days, so far as the grasshopper family was concerned. One of the tribe, about three feet long, is represented as seated on a fence waiting for the onslaught, whilst the old settler makes for him with an enormous knife and club. Which came off victorious, the picture does not tell, but we fear that the old settler is not now in the community. In the "Present," we have Colorado City and Colorado Springs fighting for the County Seat, which is figuratively represented by the County Safe. On the top of the Safe are seated several of the County Officials, who have clearly made up their minds to go wherever it is taken. To each side of the safe, strong ropes are attached, and at one side a number of the prominent citizens of the Old Town are holding on with might and main, whilst on the other side a number of the New Town boys are doing their best to haul it away. It looks to us as if the latter had the advantage. Perhaps we are mistaken. Time, however, will solve that matter, but the fate of the poor settler weighs on us, and we fear that it will forever remain a mystery. 4/5 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ The silver discovery excitement still animates the Old Town inhabitants, and much labor is being expended on the outskirts of the County Seat, both northwest and southwest on the range of foothills. At the present writing, it is difficult to determine the precise value of

the ore assayed from the certificates exhibited. Some say \$7.41 to the ounce and others contend for Dove Tail, the proprietors of which are already making big calculations on their future manner of life. Several beautiful specimens of ore can be seen at the County Clerk's office, the most prominent being from the neighborhood of Dr. Strickler's Iron Spring and bearing his name as a memorial jewel of the first water. Unless by deeper exploration more valuable and greater quantities of the silver-bearing rock are brought to light, we think this mineral excitement must speedily pass from mind, but should the flattering fancy of those now engaged be happily gratified, we would rejoice with them in the riches unearthed so near the means of reduction and transportation. 4/19 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ The scoundrels are not all hanged yet, for they have one in Colorado City. Messrs. Swisher, Holmes & Co., the proprietors of the Maniton Coaches, have a barn over there, and have lately had one of their coaches in it, to be painted and put into shape for the coming season. The body of the coach had been finished, having received its last coat of varnish, but there was still some striping to be done on the wheels, etc. Paint and brushes had been left in the barn for this purpose, and some dastardly fellow, who evidently knew the state of things, broke into the barn, painted obscene words all over the body of the coach, and then destroyed the brushes. The perpetrator of such an outrage, whoever he may be, is one of the malicious but cowardly class who are, of all characters, the most despicable, — the class who make incendiaries and assassins. The citizens of the Old Town will do well to find out who he is, and then send him to some other part of the world. 5/17 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Prospecting around Pike's Peak — which first brought immigrants to Colorado — seems to be coming again

into vogue. During the past week nearly a score of new workers in that field have started out with pick and hammer in search of fortune. Referring to a paragraph in our last issue about the mines at the head of Cheyenne and Bear creeks, a correspondent, "L.C.D." writes as follows: "Seeing your article in your last issue in regard to the mines at the head of Cheyenne and Bear creeks, and being a member of Elkhart Mining Company, I thought I would inform you of the true state of affairs. Prospecting at the head of Cheyenne is still going on, with hopes as sanguine as ever. We hope, therefore, that the citizens of Colorado Springs will not be discouraged, while those of Colorado City are so confident of success. We only ask that Colorado Springs shall be fairly represented. As to what the prospects are — whether they be good or bad — time only will tell. So we await further events. More anon. 5/24 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ A Public Bar has been opened at the back of the Billiard Hall in the La Font House. We hope that, when the day of reckoning comes in this matter, those who are responsible for such an open defiance of law will not try to shirk their responsibility. The man who sells the Liquor is, of course, the manifest offender, but there are others who are participators with him. We call attention to this now, in order that hereafter there may be clear understanding about the matter. After the election of Town Trustees, and the expression of the public opinion which was then elicited, those who have control of the La Font House required the lessee of the Billiard Hall to discontinue the sale of Intoxicating Liquors on the premises. The fact that they did so was a claim on their part that they were in a position to allow or to disallow such sale. The fact that they now allow it to proceed is patent to all, and we hope, as we have said, that they will not try hereafter to shift the blame on to other shoulders. 5/24 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO Spring 1898

Y Kid Green, crap dealer at the Arcade Club took an unannounced vacation Thursday night. He took \$100 with him but left a note behind saying he had borrowed the money and would repay it. 4/2 *Colorado City Iris*

Y The unplatted portion of the Drake estate located in the east part of town will probably be surveyed and platted in the near future. The land is located in a most desirable residence portion of the town. 4/2 *Colorado City Iris*

Y Until May 1st, 1898, with every twenty dollars cash purchase, The May Clothing Co., 23 South Tejon St., Colorado Springs, Colo., only one price clothiers in El Paso county, will furnish a book of twenty two street car tickets free or half a book with a ten dollars purchase. 4/2 *Colorado City Iris*

Y Born to Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Goff, a daughter. Mother and child are doing well. Mr. Goff is manager of the Newton Lumber Company in this city; he don't smoke, and for that reason is sitting out bundles of lath and bales of shingles to his customers. 4/2 *Colorado City Iris*

Y Adam Geiger has commenced the erection of another modern cottage on the lot just west of his new residence at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and 4th street. 4/9 *Colorado City Iris*

Y Married, at St. Mary's church in Colorado Springs, on Tuesday, April 12, Anthony Bott, of this city, and Mrs. O. M. Longton, of Colorado Springs, Rev. Father Bender officiating. It is with no small degree of pleasure that The Iris chronicles this union. The Iris can say nothing that is not already known concerning Mr. Bott. He is generous, public spirited and possesses all the attributes which go to make an honored citizen. Mrs. Bott is well known both here and Colorado Springs and is a smart tempered lovable woman, admired and respected by all who know her. Immediately after the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Bott departed for the south

and will spend the coming three months traveling in Mexico and in California. They will make their future home in this city. 4/16 *Colorado City Iris*

Y Brakeman McDermidt established a reputation as a duck hunter during a recent trip to South Park. It is said that he slew a couple of white Pekin ducks in a ranchman's door yard a short distance above Hartsel early one morning last week. The ranchman charged him \$3 for the two ducks and kept the game. An ex-Midland engineer is credited with shooting the heads from a couple of decoy ducks in the same neighborhood. 4/16 *Colorado City Iris*

Y The trees purchased by the city have arrived and are being planted along the streets. They are all Carolina poplars. 4/16 *Colorado City Iris*

Y Robert C. Osborn, an old resident of this city was picked up by Marshal Allen Sunday at a point just south of the Midland depot, where he had fallen in a fit, and taken to the town hall where he died at 1:30 p.m. on Monday. Coroner Hallett was called but decided, after viewing the remains, that an inquest was not necessary. Undertaker Beyle took charge of the remains and conveyed them to his parlors from which place the funeral was held on Wednesday and was conducted by Rev. Powell of the M.E. Church. The interment was at Fairview cemetery. The deceased was an old soldier of the war for the union, and was 67 years of age. He leaves a widow and a son who conducts a candy store in Colorado Springs. The deceased was a pleasant old gentleman and was at one time an employee of the Colorado City Glass company as messenger and man of all work. Thus on the eve of another war, passes away one of the old flag's defenders. 4/23 *Colorado City Iris*

Y NOTICE TO GAMBLERS — Colorado Springs, Colo., May 6, 1898 — To whom it may concern: Notice is hereby given that on and after Monday, May 9th, 1898, the criminal statutes of the state of Colorado, in reference to gambling of any nature whatsoever, will be strictly and promptly enforced in El

Paso county. All parties engaged in such unlawful occupations must at once comply with this notice, in default of which, their persons and property will be the subject to the provisions of the statutes of the state of Colorado, in regard to gambling and the penalties attached thereto, both as to the fines and imprisonment of the offenders and the confiscation and destruction of their property, engaged in such illegal practice. Henry McAllister, District Attorney; W.S. Boynton, Sheriff. 5/14 *Colorado City Iris*

Y Extensive improvements in the shape of dust settlers and cooling room are being made at the big Chlorination mill of the Colorado-Philadelphia Reduction company. The present mode of cooling roasted ore will be done away with as soon as the new buildings are completed. 4/30 *Colorado City Iris*

Y On Monday, the gambling fraternity of this city was arraigned in Judge Harris' division of the district court along with the brethren of the various towns in the Cripple Creek district. The employees of gambling houses were fined \$300 and cost and sentenced to 60 days imprisonment in the county jail. On promise to be good and gamble no more, the fine and imprisonment were suspended on payments of costs. The proprietors were fined \$50 and cost. District Attorney McAllister gave it out cold that no further gambling would be tolerated in El Paso county. Sure it is that all form of gambling is off in this city for the present at least. 5/14 *Colorado City Iris*

Y A passenger train on the Midland Terminal railroad overtook a gang of bridge men on a trestle between Gillett and Midland Thursday morning. Four men jumped from the bridge and were killed. The dead are Ben Eberly, Ed Flynn, James Hanrahan and William Flynn. 5/28 *Colorado City Iris*

Y When you want the correct time, you can get it at the Hoffman saloon. Mr. Hames has put in a self winding clock, that is regulated every hour by the Western Union Telegraph company. 5/28 *Colorado City Iris*

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO Spring 1923

¶ Sheriff Sam Berkley, deputies Saunders, Stark and Berry, Detective Bruce and Marshal James of Manitou, constituted the raiding party that took into custody the large moonshine plant in a tunnel near the auto road on Pikes Peak early Friday morning and arrested Sylvester Bevill, Harry Simmons, Gayle Hatton and Harry Ruggles 4/6 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ All those having premium tickets in the campaign being conducted by the Sanitary Market and O. E. Thrasher "rounded in" on Tuesday, and after the stacks of tickets had been run through the adding machine, the following were found to be winners: D. Penrod, William Odgers, H. L. Hastings, Miss Bonnie Kelso, Mrs. J. P. Taylor, Mrs. Ross VanNattan, Mrs. Paul Densmore, Mrs. C. Robinson, William Davis and Mrs. J. D. Tatum. 4/6 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ For the next attraction, the Landes Players will present a varied program on Wednesday evening, April 18, at 8 o'clock. A pantomime, "The Follies of Fashion," will be presented by the following girls: Nevada Cunningham, Mary Cullett, Edrie Schrock, Pernie Smith, Marian Smith, Nola Denta, Marie Chamberlain, Hildegard Neinicke. The second half of the program will be a farce, entitled, "A Woman's Won't," with Andy Krofchek, Elizabeth Woodworth, Russell Wood, Naomi Waters, Karl Gudger, and Christine Immer as the cast. Music will be furnished by Miss Pauline Cole, violinist, and Miss Carrie Jensen, pianist. 4/13 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Rev. Albert W. Luce conducted pre-Easter evangelistic meetings at Montrose, resulting in 124 additions. As Rev. Luce was the originator of the sunrise Easter service in the Garden of the Gods, he was called back here for this service, where he preached to more than 2,000 people in the temple not made with hands. At the West Pikes Peak church, Rev. Luce had 14 more

additions Easter, making a total of 138. 4/13 *Colorado Springs Independent*
Work will begin within a week on the Short Line roadbed between Bruin Inn and Cripple Creek to make a modern highway. Steam shovels are already on the scene and it is expected the road will be ready for travel by June 15. 4/13 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ The Raedel Manufacturing company of 2520 West Colorado avenue, makers of the Perfect garden hose holder, got the balance of their equipment last week, and are now putting the Perfect hose holder on the market. Another shipment—a carload—is now on the way from Indiana. The Perfect garden hose holder is all the name implies—perfect. It is the latest thing on the market in the line of articles so necessary to garden and lawn success at this time of year. It is so adjustable that much time, labor and patience are saved by its use. With it you can sprinkle a strip or corner without wetting where not wanted. And it stays put. 4/20 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ The base ball boys of West Junior High and Manitou got a good run for their money in their first game of the season, played in Monument Valley park Tuesday afternoon. Junior High 26 - Manitou 20. 4/20 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ At the meeting of the newly-elected Ramona town board, held Monday night, W. R. Grove was named clerk; H. M. Rowe, treasurer; J. W. Conlow, street commissioner; and J. V. Watson police judge. 4/20 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ The supplies for installing lights in the alleys on both sides of Colorado avenue, through the 2400 and 2500 blocks, have arrived, and now await the pleasure of the city electrician. They will be installed shortly. 4/20 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ During the month of March, 550 cars of ore were shipped from Cripple Creek to the Golden Cycle mill

in this city, an increase of 104 cars over February. The ore had an average value of \$10.75 per ton. 4/20 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ When the committee goes the rounds of the West Side business section to make the award for the best display window for "Clean-Up Week", it will have a hard task to perform. Those who have entered the contest with great enthusiasm are the Penwell confectionary, Koch's drug store, the Palace grocery, Fred's Smoke House, Cross & Son's book and confectionary store, McDonald & Hugg, coal and grain. Each window will be a strong contender for the prize. 4/27 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ For a long time the stately brick building at 2507-09 Colorado avenue has borne the name and label of "The Hoffman House." This week the sign has been taken down, the front is being repainted — and — "the place that once knew them shall know them no more." 5/4 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Narcissus Troop No. 8, Girl Scouts, which is under the captaincy of Miss Nora VanNostrund, is practicing hard for the presentation of the play called "Rosemary." The girls are being coached by Mrs. Scuyler C. Landes, and will present the play at the Landes School of Expression on Friday and Saturday nights, June 1 and 2. It is a play of civil war times, and will be costumed in the period. The following is the cast: Sybil Wyatt, Alice Bassett, Rowena Walton, Lillian Larson, Nadie Foster, Rosie Roe, Elizabeth Borst, Martha Woodard, Anita Cervi, Mildred Shapley, Alice Ramsey, Marie Chamberlain, Vernie Bucks, and Marion Smith. 5/25 *Colorado Springs Independent*

¶ Thorndale park will be opened for the season on June 11, and will be operated until the regular closing time on August 27. Miss Mildred DeLongchamps and Miss Helen Sewell will be the supervisors in charge. 5/25 *Colorado Springs Independent*

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

FIFTY YEARS AGO Spring 1948

♣ The Rocky Mountain Theaters, Inc., announced Saturday that construction of a Starlight drive-in theater, a mile east of here on U. S. Highway 24 will be completed by June 1. The \$100,000 theater will make Colorado Springs the second city in the state to have the drive-in feature. Plans call for a screen tower 65 feet in height. Parking will take care of 650 cars at a time with a 300-car waiting area capacity. The latest in lighting and sound equipment will be used at the theater, with individual loud speakers available for each car. 4/27 *Colorado Springs Independent*

♣ There has been some talk lately about the County land between this city and Manitou Springs, which extends from Adams Crossing to the Cave of the Winds large street sign at the East Manitou corporate limits. Before Grandview and Arensdale additions were taken into Colorado City many years ago, there was county land west of Eleventh street, now Thirty-first street, to the Manitou corporate limits. Speaking of "No Man's Land," before Colorado City was annexed to Colorado Springs in 1917, what is now the 2000 block between Nineteenth street and then First street, Colorado City was county land. Sheldon Ave., now Twentieth street, was in the county. When the Colorado Midland railroad shops were built about 60 years ago, it was with the agreement that they would never be taken into Colorado City, so when the South Side was taken into Old Town about 40 years ago, the Midland shops and yards were not included. Therefore, there is still a "No Mans Land" on the west side. 4/1 *Colorado Springs Independent*

♣ Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Ruby, 3168 West Pikes Peak Ave., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 30 with a small party for close friends and relatives, at the home of the couple. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ruby were born and reared near Owensboro, Ky. They resided on farms and attended the same school. They were married in

Owensboro, March 30, 1898. In 1901, they came to Colorado, where they homesteaded in Elbert county. In 1921, they moved to Fountain, where they lived on a farm until they came here in 1932. In 1933, Mr. Ruby became elevator operator at the court house. He worked there for 10 years. Later he worked in the upholstery department at Camp Carson for a short time. He has been retired for the past year. The couple are members of the Evangelical church, corner of 39th and Pikes Peak Ave. They have two married sons, Edwin, of Turner, Ore., and Arthur, 3171 West Kiowa St. There are seven grandchildren. 4/1 *Colorado Springs Independent*

♣ The greatest modern winter sport is to have a setting near Manitou Springs. It is to be a ski course in Crystal Park, owned by Ben Snider, pioneer resident of the resort city, who recently acquired the property. Crystal Park has been a regional scenic place for a great many years. It is near, easy of access, and the ski course will be another attraction for the region. The Snider family was among the early settlers of Manitou Springs. 4/1 *Colorado Springs Independent*

♣ The Osborne Drug one-cent sale last week called to mind of old-timers that Ferd Koch had the first one-cent sale in old town. That was back about 35 years, when R. T. Godfrey, James McIntosh and Walter F. Meyer were the three Colorado City druggists. Ferd came here from New York and worked in the Meyer drug store. 4/22 *Colorado Springs Independent*

♣ In the business notes column in the Labor News last week, Omer Booth, a 27-year transit employee, reminisces as follows: "Believe it or not, I pulled Oliver Oaks six round trips one evening in Manitou with car 72, one of the big open cars, and Oliver collected 2,220 fares, and he sure was a husy boy all the time. We were on time all evening, too. I might mention the motor car and trailers we ran in the summer time to Manitou. We could take on about 200 passengers at one time, and go right

over the road with these outfits." Ollie Oaks, as he was known in the old days, was an Old Town resident, and a regular on the street railway Manitou line. 4/29 *Colorado Springs Independent*

♣ Members of the West Junior Girl scout Troop No. 28 will entertain their mothers and teachers, Monday, May 10. The girls will present the play, "Home the Treasure Chest." members of the troop are: Norma Adams, Nancy Bates, Betty Winkler, Coralee Stone, Joann Van Gundy, Shirley Strobbridge, Shirley Still, Joy Hudson, Laura Derby, Patty Bogue, La Nenea Banta, LaRue Kruse, Shirley Cole, Lucy Ann Conkey, Dagmar Meier, LaVonne Linthicum, Doris Sowell, Nancy Kelly, Louise Wilkens, Dorothy DeWitt, Phyllis Nixon, Fay Bishop, Dorothy Spann, Sally Hammond, Marilyn Caduff, Shirley Wiggins, and Shirley Jackson. Mrs. Evelyn Conkey is the leader and Mrs. Martha Van Gundy is assistant leader. 5/6 *Colorado Springs Independent*

♣ Mr. and Mrs. J.S. McKnight will officially open their new variety store at 2421 West Colorado avenue, on Friday and Saturday of this week. The new store is part of the new building just completed by Mr. McKnight. Besides McKnight's Variety Store, there are Cook Electric, dealers in new electrical equipment, Davidson Jeweler and Watch Repair, and Louie's Barber Shop. Mr. McKnight has been in business on the west Side since the early part of 1946 and was the former owner of McMahan Hardware, then known as McKnight's Hardware. The Variety Store will carry a line of nationally known brands — from lamp shades to towels, notions, sewing needs, paper supplies and a large assortment of odds and ends. 5/27 *Colorado Springs Independent*

♣ The new Golden Cycle Mill will be built on the site of the old Independence mill in Victor. All repair work on the Golden Cycle Mill in Colorado Springs has been stopped. 5/6 *Colorado Springs Independent*

♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣

their subject for portrayal. With the cooperation of Will DeBoer and the city's cemetery department, we have access to the stories found in their book, **Here Lies Colorado Springs**, in addition to the submitted stories that were not included in the book. Volunteers can also get their information from various newspaper accounts in our collections or from personal knowledge and stories about their own friends and relatives now buried in Fairview.

Each portrayal should not be longer than 5 minutes in length. Visitors may ask the subject questions the times they lived in, so the volunteers may want to also study those details. Anyone interested in portraying a historic subject now resting in Fairview Cemetery should call Paul Idleman at 636-1225 or 633-7803. We will help you decide on your subject and provide you with background material if you need it. Thanks to

a generous donation from the Pikes Peak National Bank for the "Fairview Cemetery Crawl", we have limited funds to help volunteers find costumes for their portrayal. This promises to be a fun event for all.

There are some surprises in the subjects chosen for portrayal. Edward Baxter was not one of Colorado City's illustrious citizens, but he was certainly colorful. This is a unique choice for some volunteer since Baxter was buried without a headstone and his exact location in the cemetery is unknown. The volunteer portraying Baxter will be able to roam the grounds and speak to visitors from where he wishes. All known details about Ed Baxter are provided in the following obituary found in the May 22, 1897 *Colorado City Iris*.

OPIUM DID IT — So Says The Coroner's Jury in the Case of Edward Baxter, Deceased.

"We, the jury, find that Edward Baxter came to his death by smoking opium," was the verdict at the coroner's inquest over the remains of Ed Baxter, a gambler, who died Monday afternoon in a Chinese opium joint in this city.

As near as can be learned Baxter went to the opium joint Monday morning in company of a couple of opium fiends, and indulged in the unquestionable luxury of a "pipe". It seems that Baxter had been addicted to the habit for several years, until he stopped about six months ago, but Sunday night he got on a spree and finally wound up at the opium joint. At one time Baxter was a member of

the editorial staff of the Wichita, Kansas, Daily Eagle, and was one of its brightest and best writers. About five years ago he started to gambling and finally sought the pleasure of the pipe. His downfall was rapid, but through his career he was very liberal with his money to those who were actually in need.

He came to Colorado City about six years ago and secured employment at the Office Club as a faro dealer. His wife and a son, ten years old, soon followed from the east, and they have since been living in Judge Smith's house on Lincoln avenue.

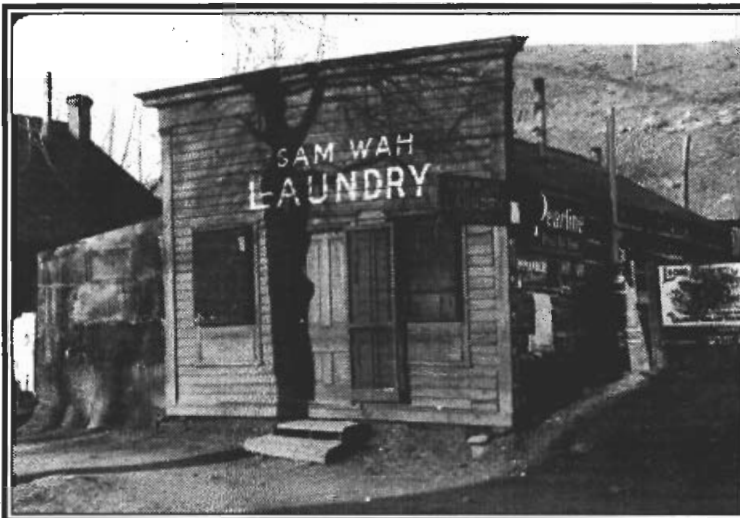
The building in which Baxter met his death is a very dismal place indeed. From the alley a door opens up into what appears to be a regular Chinese laundry, with its ironing tables, stoves, etc. To the right is another room about ten feet square, with two low bunks covered

with corn husks and a filthy quilt on each bunk. In this room Baxter's friends "hit the pipe". In the attic above, which is reached by a winding pair of stairs, about 18 inches wide, the side walls only raising about two feet above the floor and then the roof coming to a point a few feet above, with only shingles and rafters in sight, and a little window in one end to let in a few straggling rays of light, and a bunk similar to those below is where Baxter breathed his last. His friends below, after recovering from their stupor, went upstairs to see if Baxter was ready to go. They found him breathing hard, in an unconscious condition and they immediately summoned a physician and some of his intimate friends. He died, however, before assistance arrived.

His death was thereupon reported to police headquarters and Marshall Allen took charge of the remains, arrested two Chinamen and took possession of several tin cans of opium, pipes, needles, lamps, etc. The coroner was notified and the dead man was removed to Fairley Bros. undertaking rooms where the inquest was held. Burial was made in Fairview cemetery Tuesday.

Considerable excitement prevailed among Baxter's friends for some time after his death, but it gradually subsided and no trouble ensued. The excitement, however, alarmed the Chinamen to the extent that several of the "yellow fellows" packed their grips and left town immediately upon the announcement of Baxter's death.

Deceased was thirty-five years old and leaves a wife by a second marriage, and a boy by his former wife.



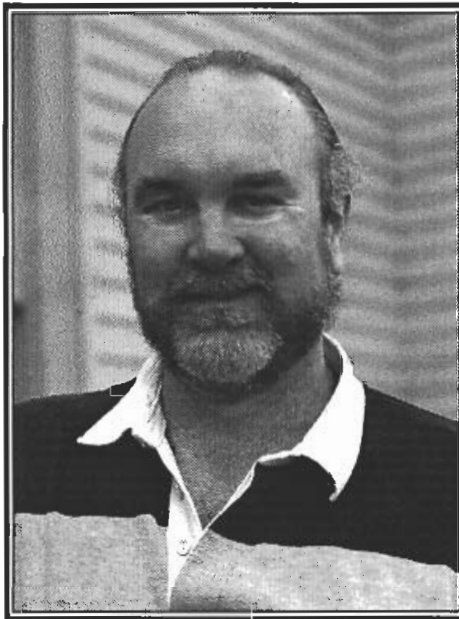
The Chinese opium joint was most likely Sam Wah's Laundry which was located in the old Dr. Garvin cabin which became the El Paso County Clerk's office for Irving Howbert. The debate continues on whether or not this building served as the first Colorado Territorial capital. Most likely it was not. The cabin still survives in Bancroft Park.
photograph from the OCCHS Collection

MEET OCCHS MEMBER MARK LEWIS

Meet **Mark Lewis**, frequently identified as the "computer guy"-you know, "the tall one with the pony tail". The History Center has been benefiting from Mark's many talents and available time. Mark is a member of our Technology Committee and has already scanned over five hundred historical photographs, and loaded many pages of documents, written copy, census data, and city directories for the History Center's website at: <http://history.oldcolo.com>. In addition, he's been a major contributor with his expertise to help us begin our interview program again and helped set up our membership meetings. Mark also has already proved himself to be a valuable member on our Grants Committee. The amount of grant possibilities he's located is staggering. Mark and **Dave Wolverton** also have donated many items and equipment for our new darkroom.

Raised in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Mark is the son of two teachers. He received his B.A. in psychology from the University of Tennessee in 1976 and worked for six years as a psychologist with retarded adults, which brought him to Manitou and Cheyenne Village in 1981.

He has been a professional musician since 1973 with four different bands, and plays solo acoustic professionally as well. He also enjoys mountain biking, skiing (both Nordic and Alpine), and fly-fishing.



For five years he was a producer/director with the media department of Digital Equipment Corporation. While there he did instructional/educational video production and product photography. In 1992, he was hired back as a media consultant for the announcement of Digital's Alpha chip in Seefeld, Austria. He produced the entire event with a wide variety of professional equipment and a foreign crew.

Now as a freelance photographer, Mark's background includes teaching lab and photography skills, working in photo labs, and catalog photography, including the **Star Wars** and **Star Trek** catalogs. And yes, he is always looking for more work.

Mark says that he is really enjoying the History Center website/database project. The History Center is close to where he lives, so he is able to walk down to work on the web-site. Take time to say "hello" the next time you see Mark working away in the computer room. and see . He is always glad to explain what he is doing or help locate information. Mark has a sweet tooth, too, so cookies and other goodies would always be a treat.

We're very fortunate to have Mark helping us. He is helping to guide us to our goals for presenting history in the 21st Century. Thanks, Mark, for all your devoted help.

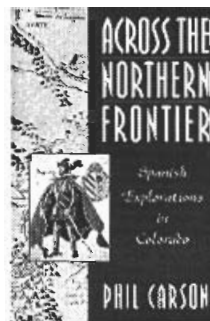
written by Joanne Karlson -- photo by Paul Idleman

BOOK EVENTS & PROGRAMS AT THE HISTORY CENTER

Many events are planned throughout the rest of the summer and we hope everyone will come. On Sunday, July 26th, OCCHS and the Pikes Peak Library District will co-host a special reception to honor photographer and film maker Jim Bates. Jim has made significant donations to both organizations and we want to publically thank him for helping preserve our region's history. Don Kallaus has been printing some of Jim's photos to display and the Community Video Center will show some of Jim's films from Alexander Film Company. Jim will greet guests and introduce his films. The reception begins at 5:00 P.M. at the History Center and refreshments will be served courtesy of many of our members.

Judy Finley's new book, **Time Capsule 1900: Colorado Springs A Century Ago**, transports the reader back in time for a close look at our community as it was then. Judy will

be at the History Center on August 2nd at 2:30 P.M. to sign copies of her book and greet visitors.



Phil Carson is well-known for his book, lectures and articles on the Spanish Explorations, Edwin James and the Long expedition, and his work as former editor for the *Pike's Peak Journal*. In Phil's newest book, **Across The Northern Frontier**, he examines the Spanish travels and influence in the country that became the state of Colorado. Phil will present a short program and sign copies of his book at the History Center on August 5th at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments will be served at both book signings.

OCCHS member and author, Melissa Walker, will stop by the History Center to meet visitors and sign copies of her new book, **Pikes Peak Region Traveler**, on August 15th from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. This marvelous book deserves a more detailed description which will appear in our next newsletter with reviews of all three books.

