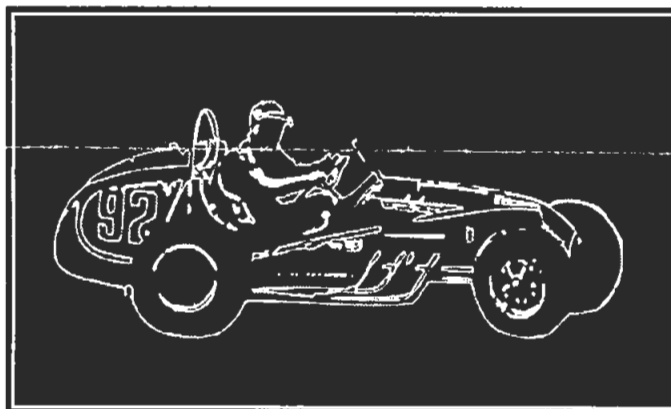


SEPTEMBER 1998

THE UNSERS IN COLORADO CITY

Bobby Unser Talks About His Family's History In Old Colorado City At Our First Annual Membership Banquet

The Old Colorado City Historical Society will host the First Annual OLD COLORADO CITY DINNER & MEMBERSHIP BANQUET on Friday, September 25, 1998 at the International Polka Club at 6:00 P.M. This promises to be an entertaining evening with a Jacob Schmidt Beer Taste-Alike Event, great food, and guest Bobby Unser speaking about the Unser family in Colorado City since 1909.



This rendering of Louie Unser was produced for the brass plaque honoring the Unser family as a "First Family of Colorado City." The plaque will be placed at the location where several Unser homes once stood. That location is now the east addition for the Surplus City building.

The Membership Banquet will also honor our volunteers who have donated their time

and expertise to help make the Old Colorado City History Center's first year a success. Awards will be given to several of our members for their outstanding devotion and service to OCCHS and our new History Center. Everyone is also invited to come dressed as a character of Old Colorado City's past. Costumes are optional. Anyone of legal drinking age will be able to taste a variety of regional microbrews and vote

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AMERICAN INDIAN SPIRITUALITY — Our September Program —

On Friday, September 11th, historian and author Celinda Reynolds Kaelin will discuss and clarify American Indian history and culture through its spirituality. This lecture is sponsored by the Old Colorado City Historical Society and will be held at the Trinity Methodist Church at

11:00 a.m. at Trinity Methodist Church, 701 North 20th Street (just west of the Uintah Gardens Shopping Center). Following the program, lunch is available for \$5.00 per person. Reservations for lunch only are due by 5:00 p.m., September 9th.

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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 SEPTEMBER 1998 NUMBER 4

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
	Beverley 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 - October 9th, 1998
at Trinity Methodist Church
11:00 a.m.

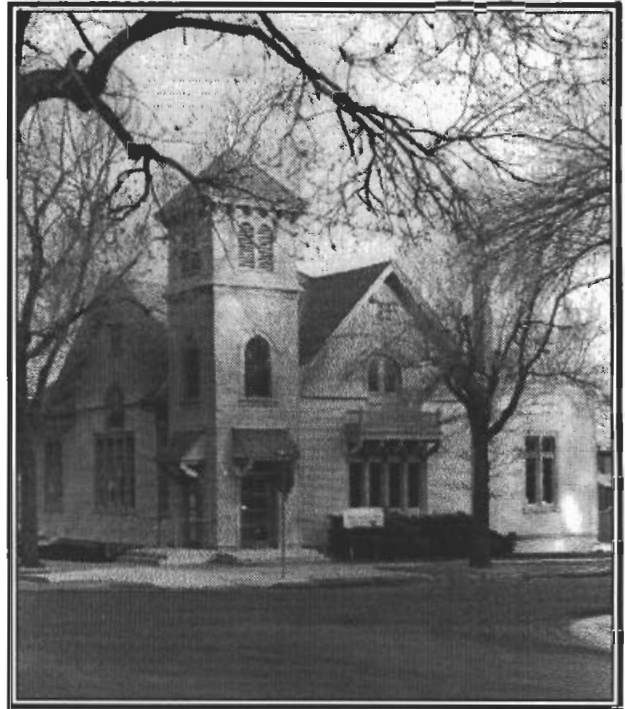


photo by Don Kallaus

Explore the REAL History!

at the

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1 South 24th Street

(the corner of Pikes Peak & 24th Street)

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FIRST ANNUAL OCCHS MEMBERSHIP BANQUET & PROGRAM

con't from page 1

for the best one to carry the label of the beer served around 1910 by that great Colorado City Beer Hall owner, Jacob Schmidt. Social Hour, Cash Bar and Beer Tasting begin at 6:00 P.M.

The highlight of the evening will be our guest speaker, Bobby Unser. Unser's grandparents, Louie and Marie Unser, came to Colorado City in 1909. Their sons, Louie and Jerry (Bobby's father), began racing the Pikes Peak Hill Climb in 1916. That was the beginning of the legacy that has produced eleven famous racing Unsers. Bobby will speak about the whole Unser family and their roots in Old Colorado City.

The dinner has been creatively selected and re-named with titles more befitting our group. The menu for the evening is Borst London Broil, Lucy Maggard's Potatoes, Robert & Elsie Chamber's Veggies, Templeton Flour Mill Bread, and Mack's Dessert Bar.

The Banquet/Program is open to all. The cost is \$25 per person for Old Colorado City Historical Society members and \$35 per person

for non-members. Non-members have the option of \$10 of their ticket price going toward a \$20 yearly membership in the Old Colorado City Historical Society.)

Tickets are available at many locations, including the Old Colorado City History Center. You can also purchase tickets by mail. Write your check to Old Colorado City Historical Society and mail with your address to 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the History Center should be able to accept your payment by Mastercard or VISA. Call the History Center at 636-1225 for more information.

The invitation inside of this newsletter will receive a certifying stamp when your reservation has been made. The International Polka Club is located at 2422 Busch Avenue in Colorado Springs. A map is included on your invitation.

E-mail history@oldcolo.com or call 719-636-1225 for more information or to order tickets by credit card.

AMERICAN INDIAN SPIRITUALITY

Celinda Kaelin Presents September Program - con't from page 1

Please call the History Center at 636-1225 to place your lunch reservations.

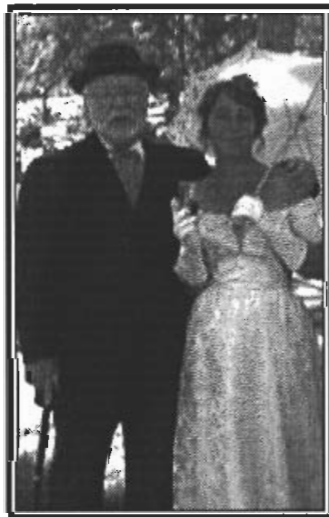
Human voices first echoed from the Rockies and across the Great Plains around 30,000 to 40,000 years ago. These early People were the original Western Writers of America, etching their mysteries on the faces of stone cliffs and drawing their histories on the tanned hides of animals. Their culture thrived as they adapted themselves to the earth and sky in unequalled harmony. Their lives were innately spiritual, *"...they never built churches or composed a book of sacred writings like the Bible, they had no prayer books, hymnals, holy days, or Sabbath. yet all they owned and every act of their lives was bound up with their religion; which*

accounted for the exceptional quality of everything they produced and did." [Thomas Mails]

However, as their lands were invaded by Euro-Americans, their voices fell to a barely audible whisper. Unfortunately, truth is usually the second victim of conquest, for history is always written by the victor. Compounding this distorted perspective of American Indians was a lack of understanding of their spirituality which was labeled paganistic, polytheistic, or pantheistic.

Kaelin's most recent book is **Journey Song: A Spiritual Legacy of the American Indian** published by a Sioux Indian publishing company, Four Directions, and will be available at the program and at History Center Book & Gift Shop.

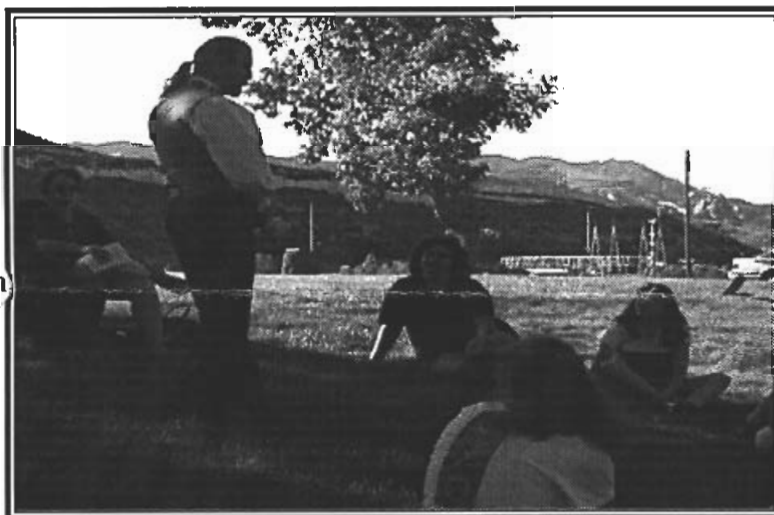
FAIRVIEW CEMETERY CRAWL SCRAPBOOK



Our First Fairview Cemetery Crawl was a big success. Over 175 visitors toured the cemetery and listened to the life stories of fourteen people who now rest there. The event raised almost \$900 for the History Center operations. A very special thank you to our fourteen actors who brought these interesting subjects to life. Thanks also to Will DeBoer for all of his help. The event proved to be a very enjoyable way of learning the history of Old Colorado City. We're already working on next year's crawl.

Sharing their life stories with visitors to our first Fairview Cemetery Crawl are (top) Gordon Gray as Dr. Isaac Winternitz, (second row left) Larry Blasgen as John Peck, Dee Dimberio as Katherine Lamont, Judy Willy as her grandmother Alice Lydia Shilling, Dottie Spann as her grandmother Amanda Robinson, (bottom row left) Bev Millett brought tears to visitor's eyes with her story of squatter, Auntie Durham. Anthony Bott (Jerry Jekel) hobnobs with Laura Bell McDaniel (Lee Michaels). On the next page (top left), LaRue Ebersole shared many items belonging to his grandfather, J.C. McCreary, editor and publisher of the Independent. (top right)

The atmosphere was enhanced with a vintage 1860's horse pulled by Mike. This was Mike's final duty before enjoying his well earned retirement in a lush pasture. (middle left) Lance Michels portrays Ed Baxter, the luckless gambler we profiled in the last *West Word*. Jean Christopher portrayed the notorious madame, Blanche Burton and pioneer Hattie Trout was brought to life by Jan Knox. (bottom row) Margaret Porter was enjoyably portrayed by Kay Arnold. We regret we did not have a photograph of Martha Curry as Louise Koch in time for this newsletter. We'll print some more photos in the next *West Word*. All photos from the digital video of the event.



MEMBERSHIPS DUE FOR RENEWAL

July

- Michael Axtell
- Kaye Caster
- Gene, Ann & Michael Dienst
- Raymond J. Hill
- Geraldine Iverson
- Madeline Keas
- Mike Stapp
- Marian Steavenson
- Lola I. Stone
- Beverly Upshaw

August

- Bud & Jo Walker

- Karen Anderson
- Betty Baker
- Ray Campbell
- Don Clark
- Richard D. Dittmore
- Judy Garcia
- Tracy & LaDonna Gunn
- Paul & Sue Idleman
- Sara Mock
- Dorothy E. Myers
- John & Carol Stody
- Mary Stone Tate
- Barbara Vuillemin
- Catharine L. Walt
- Anne Willey
- Dave Wolverton

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO Summer 1873

¶ At the residence of her father, at Colorado Springs, Colorado Territory, on the third day of June, 1873, at five o'clock in the afternoon, Miss Myria Ann Price, daughter of Eliphalet and Mary L. Price, late of Clayton County, Iowa. Miss Price left her home in Iowa on the 2nd day of June, 1872, in the hope of securing a restoration of her health, through the climatic agencies of a mountain residence. But that terrible affliction, *consumption*, had made such advances that climate, medical skill, and the tender care of her father, sister, and her two brothers, could do no more than prolong her life during a period of one year and one day, from the time of leaving her Iowa home, Her remains have been placed in the cemetery at Mount Washington, and are overshadowed by the foliage of the forest pine now robed in the luxuriance of the vernal year. 6/7 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ On Wednesday night last, a man living in Colorado City, known as "Jake the Butcher," had a fall, which cause him to bite his tongue very severely. His tongue rapidly swelled, so that he could scarcely take food of any kind, and, at last accounts, it was thought that he would not be able to live. 6/7 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ A Round-up will take place on Monday next, in Big Hollow, five miles below Town. It is expected that about two thousand head of cattle will be brought together, and those who have never seen a Round-up will find this a good opportunity to acquaint themselves with one of the incidents of the stockman's life—it will be seen from an advertisement in another column that a Round-up will also take place on the following Monday on the range of Messrs. Crow & Randall, and Messrs. Pugsley & Co. 6/7 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ The new Court House at Colorado City was accepted last Saturday by the County Commissioners. The building, which is of brick, is two stories high, the dimensions being thirty-two feet by fifty feet. The upper story which is all one room, forms the Court Room, the lower story is divided into three rooms, occupied respectively by the County Clerk, the Sheriff, and the Treasurer. The cost of the building has been \$6,000, of which the County has paid \$2,500, the remainder of the amount having been subscribed principally by the people of Colorado City, who also gave the Block upon which it has been build. The Commissioners propose to fence in the clock and beautify it. We think they will do well to wait awhile before spending more money upon it. 6/7 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ A cattle man just in from South Park informs us, as we are preparing to go to press, that a band of Utes numbering about 140, have been raiding in Hayden and South Parks, and have stolen several horses. Samuel Hartsell, he tells us, has lost 17 head, and Judge Castello has lost 3. It is understood that some horse thieves (who have not the excuse of Indian blood) are acting in concert with the Utes and inciting them. The Sheriff of Park County, with his deputies, is after the thieves, and will doubtless make them give an account of themselves. The Utes are probably on their way to Denver to draw their allowance, and Major Thompson will, of course, have a reckoning with them. 6/7 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Mr. C. R. Husted has established a Lumber Yard near to the Planing Mill. 7/12 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ The upper Flour Mill at Colorado City is being pulled down for removal to the neighborhood of Colorado Springs. 8/30 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

¶ Last Sunday afternoon, a heavy rain and hail storm visited Colorado City and Manitou, causing considerable damage to the roads, etc., in the vicinity. A large hole was made in the bed of Camp Creek, which caused several breakdowns and runaways. Amongst others, Dr. Gatchell was a sufferer, bringing his buggy back to Town minus most of the top. 8/30 *Colorado Springs Gazette*

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO Summer 1898

¶ Thomas Hopper, proprietor of the Little Gem saloon is confined to his room nursing a broken leg. Hopper and James Ryan, the milkman, engaged in a friendly wrestling contest shortly after noon Thursday and in one of the falls Hooper's left leg was broken (both bones) just above the ankle. Dr. Winternitz set the bones. 6/4 *Colorado City Iris*

¶ A rather sensational shooting took place in the Pike's Peak saloon about 5 o'clock Saturday afternoon. It seems that a party which included Shorty Switze, a painter, and Thomas Nichols, a saw mill man hailing from Divide, were engaged in playing cards when a dispute arose which culminated in a fight between Switze and Nichols. Nichols got the best of the fight and Switze left the saloon. In about a half hour Switze returned and entered the saloon by a side door. As he entered he leveled a double barreled shot gun on Nichols and pulled the trigger. The charge caught Nichols in the face, neck, and shoulder. A second shot was fired but a bystander knocked up the gun barrels and the charge entered the ceiling. Nichols was taken to the office of Dr. Winternitz where the shot was picked out and the wounds dressed. Strange to say, Nichols was not seriously injured. Marshal Allen captured the shooter and confined him in the city jail until the next day, when, no charge having been made, he was turned loose. Nichols would make no com-

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

plaint nor would the officers as the county commissioners would not allow their fees. It is said that Nichols broke Switze's jaw in a fight about a year ago. 6/11 *Colorado City Iris*

∞ Eugene Simpier, the sign writer and scenic artist, has finished a street scene for Ascough's opera house which represents Colorado avenue fifty years hence. 6/25 *Colorado City Iris*

∞ Go to Borst's City Market for choice home rendered lard. 50 pound pails at 6 and 7 cents per pound; 20 pound pails at 7 ½ cents per pound; 10 pound pails for 90 cents; 5 pound pails for 45 cents; 3 pound pails for 25 cents; Choice Breakfast Bacon at 10 cents per pound. 7/16 *Colorado City Iris*

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO Summer 1923

∞ An exhibit of the work done by the boys in the manual training classes at the West Junior High school is shown in the display windows of the Yarchover dry good store and Koch's drug store. 6/1 *Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ Miss Frances Goff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Goff, 2132 West Bijou, has returned from Urbana, Illinois, where she had been attending the university. Her brothers, John and Joseph, will remain at the university for the summer term. 6/15 *Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ Ah, shucks! Let the Colorado avenue viaduct be torn up at once. Residents of the West Side and Manitou won't feel at home for the summer to pass without being inconvenienced by some traffic obstructions. Then tourists might forget having been here this season. 7/13 *Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ The eighteenth amendment seems to have more effect on the heavens than it does on the earth. The lack of rain here this summer is unusual. Nothing is growing as it should, and

much stuff is being kept alive with difficulty. Uncultivated ground has not been wet through this year. 7/13 *Colorado Springs Independent*.

∞ The funeral of Jesse W. Jackson, who died at his late residence at 2206 West Pikes Peak avenue, at one o'clock Thursday, July 12, was held from the West Pikes Peak Christian church Sunday afternoon at two o'clock, conducted by the pastor, Rev. Albert W. Luce, with Blunt & Son in charge and interment made in Evergreen cemetery. Mr. Jackson is survived by his wife and two sons, Perry and Marvin, two brothers and two sisters. Mr. Jackson was a resident of Colorado Springs since 1883, the greater part of which time he had been engaged in the grocery business. He was well-known and highly esteemed and was noted for his squareness in business dealings. The sympathy of the entire community goes out to the bereaved family. 7/20 *Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ Residents in the vicinity of North Twenty-Third street are damning the dam built near Thorndale part to turn flood water into the storm sewer, and liberally paying their respects to the city engineer and others responsible for the blunder. 7/20 *Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ Col. Robert McReynolds, mayor of Ramona, all but tied up traffic at Twenty-Fifth street Wednesday afternoon, when he jaywalked from corner to corner. The blind traffic toadstool was his isle of safety and his companion that trusty walking-stick. The honking of horns, the sputtering of engines, the odor of perfume or the smell of dead cigarette smoke did not fuss him a bit. He has had too many hairbreadth escapes in his seventy years to let a modern horseless wagon disturb him. When the traffickers found that Bob was going to stand his ground, though surrounded, they drove on, and he soon moseyed over to the sidewalk, fired up his microbe-killer and puffed

up the hill toward Ramona. 8/10 *Colorado Springs Independent*

FIFTY YEARS AGO Summer 1948

∞ The City Council acted at their meeting, Tuesday, to let a contract for the construction of a dance and shuffle-board slab and two roque courts in the Bancroft park in West Colorado Springs. The estimate on the work in Bancroft Park was \$3,500, with \$4,725 being bid on this job. The contract was awarded the lone bidder, the Holmgren Construction Co. 6/10 *Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ Lt. Ira B. Current, USNR, son of Park Current of 3182 West Pikes Peak Ave., is one of the 100 specially qualified Naval Reserve officers who will observe and study naval research programs at first hand during the first scientific seminar ever conducted for Reservists by the Navy, from June 9 to 29, in Washington, D. C. The seminar, sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, will feature lectures by outstanding scientists and engineers closely identified with the scientific, research and development activities of the Naval Establishment, and visits to various laboratories in the Washington, D. C. area. 6/10 *Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Day and two sons of New London, Ohio, were here last week. He is owner and publisher of the Weekly Record at New London. There are four of the Day brothers, all being printers. In 1917-18, Malcolm lived with his parents in Colorado City, the father, Frank A. Day, being publisher of the Colorado City Argus. 6/17 *Colorado Springs Independent*

∞ Mr. and Mrs. LaRue K. Ebersole arrived here from Boulder last Thursday for the college vacation. They will return today from a short visit with her parents in Pueblo. 6/17 *Colorado Springs Independent*