

JULY 1999

French History The Louvre

My wife Becky and I have just returned from three weeks of sightseeing in Europe. We visited many historic places and one of the most impressive was The Louvre in Paris. I thought it would be interesting to share with you some information on the collections in this magnificent facility and how history has been preserved.

The history of Old Colorado City cannot begin to match the scale of the history and artifacts in The Louvre. BUT we do have one thing in common with the Louvre....to preserve the historical stories and artifacts for future generations to enjoy.

The Louvre is a Palace which stands on the site of a fortress (c. 1200) built in the reign of Philippe Augustus. The whole complex of buildings, which cover an area of about 237,000 square yards is three times the size of the Vatican, including St. Peter's. In any event, when you arrive at The Louvre, you are immediately impressed by the massive size and ornateness of the entire complex.

The Louvre Museum presents 30,000 works of art which are divided into several main collections. The oriental Antiquities Arts of Islam presents the civilizations of the ancient Near-East which go back to 7,000 BC and succeeded one another in Mesopotamia, Iran and the countries of the Levant, an immense territory stretching from the Mediterranean to India. The works of art in this section are very impressive and the "age" of the items is almost mind-boggling.

The Egyptian Antiquities illustrates the art of Ancient Egypt from two different view points: a chronological circuit, from the earliest times to Cleopatra, and a theme circuit illustrating certain aspects of Egyptian civilization.

The Greek, Etruscan and Roman Antiquities includes works from three ancient civilizations: Greece, Etruria and Rome. There is a chronological circuit, based on marble statuary, containing works from the third millennium BC to the 7th century AD. The statues are beautiful and again, when you realize how "old" they are, you are immediately impressed on how many centuries they have been preserved.

There are European sculptures from the Late Middle Ages to the mid-19th century in another section. These collections, which mainly include French works, also contain many significant pieces from Italy, Spain and Northern Europe.

In the Objects d'art section, the collections come from every era: items from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, decorative arts from the 17th and 18th centuries, the Crown Diamonds, 19th century items and items of furniture from Napoleon III apartments.

The collection of paintings cover the history of European painting from the mid-13th century to the mid-19th century. They are divided into three main groups: the French School, the Italian and Spanish Schools, and the Northern European Schools.

The prints and drawings area consists of over 100,000 works and may be extremely fragile and are on display only as temporary exhibits.

For those of you who have also visited The Louvre, I hope that you would agree that it is a very impressive facility. History is everywhere and we left with a good understanding of the history of each era that was displayed in the collections.

I came back with a renewed interest in preserving the history of Old Colorado City. (the little Louvre of the Rockies???)

(article submitted by Gordon Gray)

Old Colorado City Historical Society

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

WEST WORD

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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	Gordon Gray	630-8238
Vice President	Beverley Disch	634-5023
Secretary	Don Ellis	447-0424
Treasurer	Dave Hughes	636-2040
	Jack Ekstrom	473-7515
	Robert Heinich	448-9001
	Don Kallaus	630-0322
	Leo Janzen	227-7662
	Agnes Johnson	633-8040
	Mei McFarland	533-1311
	Jim Travis	636-1576

MEETINGS

OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is held at 11:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, except during June, July and August. The History Center opens at 10:00 a.m. on the day of each Monthly Meeting & Program for refreshments and visitation. The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. The OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is free and open to the public

Next General Meeting
September 10, 1999
at the History Center

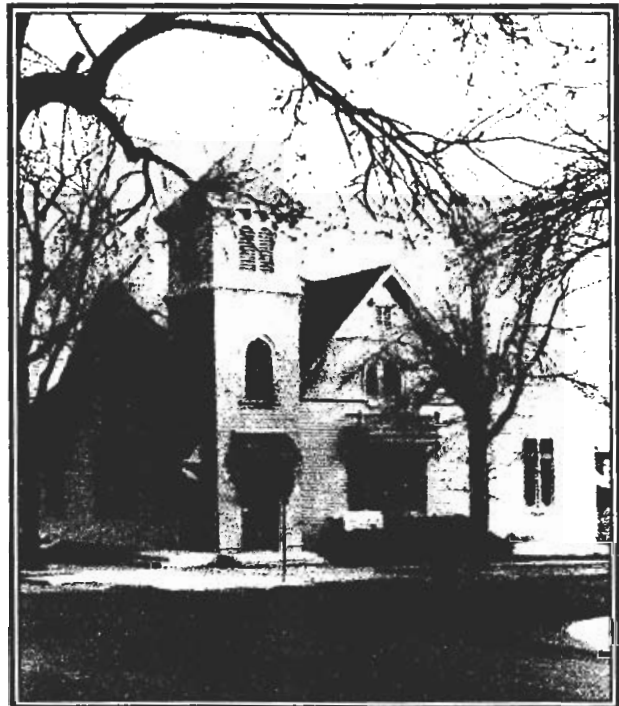


photo by Don Kallaus

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

Summer Hours

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

CLOSED MONDAYS

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stories
documents
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biographies
events

We're adding more all the time.
e-mail us at: history@oldcolo.com

MAILBOX

Dear OCCHS,

Please send me brochures regarding Old Colorado City. we are hoping to be in your area very soon.

Thank you,

W. Terpstra
Valparaiso, IN

Thank you for your e-mail. We have mailed you some information on Old Colorado City and the Old Colorado City Historical Society. We have an outstanding Museum that is located in the historic business district. We hope that you will have time to come and see us.

Dear OCCHS,

First...Thank You for creating this site. I hope to see it grow and perhaps contribute to the same in the future. Keep up the good work.

Second... I found a bad link to "Page Two" on the following page. Please let me know if/when you will make it available.

John Geers

Thank you for your e-mail and your comments about our web site. We are also very proud of this site and it is

growing each month. Please contact us and we can discuss how you can contribute. We will also look into the "bad link" and get back to you.

Dear OCCHS,

The April WESTWORD is impressive. As an adolescent in the early 1930s, I carried GAZETTE Route 2 which included Ramona. I knew a little of its reputation, but was unconcerned. I had to deliver those papers before 6 a.m., seven days a week, and try to collect 20 cents weekly per customer at a time when money was scarce.

We still hope to attend the Current "First Family of Colorado City" event, but my main concern is - (Paul) please don't forget my pictures. I need the pictures and the time(s) for the Current get-together.

Hang in there!

Stan DeGeer

Thank you, Stan for your e-mail and your nice comment to the WEST WORD. We are very proud of this publication. We have passed your message on the pictures on to Paul for his follow-up to you. The Current event is on Friday, August 13. The social hour will begin at 6 p.m. and specific information on this event is contained in this newsletter. We are also putting the specific information in an e-mail to you

Bits & Pieces

Get Well Wishes Go To.....

Kay Arnold, who had knee replacement surgery in the last month. Kay is home from the rehab unit and is feeling much better. The new knees are healing just fine and she is having flex knee therapy three times a week. She reports that she is not in much pain now and is well on the road to recovery. With continued improvement, we will project that Kay will be participating in the next 5K run to be scheduled and with the new knees, she might even place first. Best wishes Kay from all your friends at OCCHS.

John Evans, who has undergone heart surgery this month. As this newsletter goes to press, we understand that John came through the surgery just fine. He will have a recovery period but with a fine nurse like Betsy, he will be back in fine shape soon. Our thoughts are with John and Betsy as he recovers.

(If you know of OCCHS members who are under the weather, please let us know and we will provide updates in the newsletter)

Membership Directory Updates

Please update your membership directory with the following new members:

Scott O'Malley
P. O. Box 9188
Colorado Springs, CO 80932
Phone: 635-7776

Ann Maloa Maestas
208 Rockledge Court
Manitou Springs, CO 80829

Chuck Murphy
Murphy Contractors of Colorado Springs
2245 Broadway
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
Phone: 475-1634

From the Board

by Agnes Johnson, Board Member

Our research library holds many interesting tales and secrets. In one of Jan MacKell's manuscripts we learn that one of Cripple Creeks famous madams, Blanche Burton, retired from that city and came to reside at 812 West Colorado Avenue, away from the red-light district and became a noted recluse.

A portiere in her home caught fire, after a lamp was overturned, and a man was seen running from the residence. She caught fire, apparently in an attempt to quell it, and ran screaming up Colorado Avenue until fireman caught her to douse the flames. Her burns were too serious and she succumbed as a result.

Since no monies, bank books or other assets were found she would have been buried in Paupers field: however, a well known madam in Old Colorado City paid for her funeral.

Quite a few years later Bill Henderson, former mayor of Colorado Springs, President of Pikes Peak National Bank and a historian, gave such a moving story of her life and death to the Garden of the Gods Rotary Club, that the club donated monies for a head stone for her grave and it was erected in 1983 on the anniversary of her death.

It was discovered that the day before her demise she had purchased a ton a coal for needy families in time for Christmas.

And speaking of memorials, with Y2K on the horizon what better way to meet the millennium than to honor your father, mother, sister(s), brother(s), close friend, an ancestor, even yourself, by purchasing a commemorative brick for our east courtyard. Why not join the members and supporters who have bought bricks? Inflation has not hit this prize investment. Bricks are still \$100 and each brick sold helps to support the society and its many needs.

To reserve your place in history sign up today to purchase a commemorative brick.

Forms are available in the History Center and book and gift shop or phone the history center to reserve a place in the courtyard. A volunteer will be happy to help you.

Speaking of volunteers you may meet Virginia Rogers behind the desk in the book store when you visit. She is one of the volunteers who usually works on the weekends.

This pleasant lady grew up in Marion, Wisconsin. Her husband, Jim, owned a company that manufactured plywood veneers.

In 1982 they retired and came to Colorado Springs to be closer to their daughter. They bought a home in Crystal Hills.

Virginia has always been interested in history and people, so she joined the Manitou Springs Historical Society and became a volunteer at Miramont Castle.

As a member of Trinity Methodist Church whose women's circle prepared the many luncheons for the

OCCHS, she wondered" Who are we cooking for?"

When she learned about the OCCHS, she and Jim joined and she has been a faithful volunteer. Virginia is a musician and singer. She has sung in church choirs for sixty years and has been a director for twenty.

They have a daughter, Sheryl Shepard, who is a music teacher for District 20 in Pueblo. They have two granddaughters and two great grandsons.

Since 1972 they spend three winter months at CTurks and Caicos, a British Island where they own an island home.

If you want an exciting, informative book to read or give as a gift, you need look no farther than the OCCHS book store.

To whet your curiosity I'll give you a tease on one.

One bitter December in 1907 when train Number One on the Denver Pacific Railroad braked in Fraser, Colorado a startling tiny figure emerged: a well-dressed young woman carrying a little black bag and a small white dog. Her name was Dr. Susan Anderson and she had a broken heart and a bad case of tuberculosis.

To find out about her true adventures as a Country Physician in the Colorado Rockies look for "Dr.Susie" in the OCCHC book store.

For mysteries, in 1877 J.T. Schlessenger, Secretary to General Palmer was found dead in a valley in Ute Pass. The body bore a bullet hole through the heart, covered by a daintily placed handkerchief. Lover? Jealous suitor? No one knows. Tis rumored it was a duel. The case was never solved.

Paul has received some responses from members but there still is a need for more volunteers. We know about the perils of summer in Colorado: house guests, yards and gardens to tend, meals to cook, house to clean and guests to take to the Garden of the Gods. If however you have any time to help man the book shop or serve on a committee please call Bev Disch or leave a message at the center. Paul is having to fill in frequently and his time is better used in other business for the Center.

Remember there will be Founder's Day in August and the First Citizens of Old Colorado City dinner honoring the Current Family. Our new board member Leo Janzen is chairing these events and he needs lot of helping hands and support. These should be fun events so join hands, sell lots of tickets and come join the celebrations.

It is hoped that many of you joined the Tops group to visit Red Rock Canyon. Thanks to the generosity of John Bock, a tour was given to see the wonders of this seldom viewed area. We can hope this event will help gain support for saving this unique land as open-space.

Until next month.

Agnes

WEST WORD MEMORIES

From the Past

From time to time, we will share with you articles from previous West Words. For some members it will be a fond reminder of events that have happened in the history of our Society. For those who are new to the organization, we hope it will be new and informative information. Here are some selected articles from 1985 and 1986.

Westside Historian Mel McFarland will Present "Colorado Springs: the History in Pictures".....

at the Society meeting in October. He is a native Westsider with a nationwide reputation as a historian.

Edward "Mel" McFarland's slide presentation is titled "Colorado Springs: the History in Pictures." Most of the photos are more than 40 years old and cover the Westside and Manitou Springs as well as Colorado Springs itself.

Mr. McFarland has published two books on the region's railroads: "Midland Route", 1980, dealing with the Colorado Midland, and "The Cripple Creek Road", 1983, giving the history of the Midland Terminal railroad.

He lived at a half-dozen houses on the westside when he was growing up, sometimes with the railroad all but lying in his back yard. His interest in railroad history, coupled with a hobby of photography, started him collecting pictures, some of which he'll show at the meeting.

He also has hobbies of model railroading, old cars and art.

(from the September, 1985 WEST WORD)

Did You Know? (about the region's history).....

.....that Whittier school was one of the country's first Junior High Schools? In 1916, Colorado City's seventh and eighth grade students attended a "departmentalized" system there.

.....that Manitou's ultra-modern Iron Springs hotel disappointed its lady guests when it opened in 1885? They discovered they couldn't heat a curling iron on an electric light the way they'd done with gas lights!

(from the December 13, 1985 WEST WORD)

You're From Colorado City? So, How Many Wives Do YOU Have?

We're proud when friends associate us with Colorado City. But to avoid embarrassment, be sure your companion isn't thinking of recently incorporated Colorado City, ARIZONA.

That town was begun during the depression by excommunicated Mormons who wanted to continue the polygamy outlawed by the Mother Church. It has 1,700 people, about half of them children. One man is said to have fathered 80.

Leroy Johnson, founder and spiritual leader, established the town across the Grand Canyon from the rest of Arizona. "Uncle Roy" 98, took his 16th wife in 1984. Thirteen wives survive.

(from the January 19, 1986 WEST WORD)

Seek Nominations of Improved Sites

Agnes Johnson, OCCHS representative serving on the Colorado Avenue Commission, told members at our last meeting that the Commission wants to recognize those who improved westside properties in 1985.

Members should contact her if they're aware of historic buildings, commercial properties or homes where landscaping, lighting, signs or other improvement add to the attractiveness of Colorado Avenue. She and our other member-representative, Kay Arnold, will relay nominations to the Commission.

(from the February 14, 1986 WEST WORD)

OCCHS Board Making Decision About Matured Certificate of Deposit

The Society's Board meets at 10:30 today to decide what to do with a maturing certificate of deposit from Luther McKnight.

The deposit drew 10% interest until October 6 and on September 25th totaled \$78,596.68.

(from the October 10, 1986 WEST WORD)

OCCHS - First Families Celebration

The Old Colorado City Historical Society is pleased to announce the second annual First Family of Colorado City event. Each year, the Society honors a Colorado City family who were instrumental in the success of the town. This year the family of Park and Anna Current will be honored at the OCCHS Annual Membership Banquet on Friday, August 13, 1999.

At 10:30 a.m. on Friday, a plaque will be placed in the yard of the Current Home at 3182 West Pikes Peak Avenue. This is currently the home of Maloa Current Read, one of the Current children.

All of the surviving Current children are planning on attending. They are: Ira, Richard, Maloa, Irma, Grace and Gene.

The OCCHS Annual Membership Banquet will be held at the Castaway's Restaurant on West Colorado Avenue in Manitou Springs. This event will start at 6 p.m. with a social hour and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. The Current family members will be honored at this event and the guest speaker will be Ira Current. Ira is a well-known, long-time resident of Old Colorado City and his presentation will focus on life in this area during the first quarter of the twentieth century. He will illustrate his talk with original and dated films, complete with captions and titles.

The buffet menu will include a choice of roast turkey with sage dressing or roast beef, homemade mashed potatoes and gravy, the chef's selection from the Castaway's famous fresh produce bar, chef's dessert, fresh roast coffee and tea. The cost per person for this event is \$25. There will be a cash bar during the social hour.

Make your plans **NOW** to attend this annual **FUND RAISING** event of your Society. You will enjoy the fine food, the socialization and the opportunity to meet the Current family members. Encourage your friends, relatives, and neighbors to attend and **SELL** each of them a ticket.

Tickets go on sale the week of July 26th and can be obtained from any Board member or at the Center. You may also use the reservation form on this page.

RESERVATION FORM

Old Colorado City Historical Society
Annual Membership Banquet
First Family of Colorado City Event

Friday, August 13, 1999

6:00 p.m.

Castaway's Restaurant
Manitou Springs, Colorado

Name - reservation #1 _____

reservation #2 _____

reservation #3 _____

reservation #4 _____

Phone number: _____

Number of reservations _____ @ \$25 each = \$ _____

(reservation Number - from above)

Choice of entree #1 #2 #3 #4
(check your choice)

Turkey & dressing _____

Roast Beef _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

You can mail or bring your reservation form, along with your payment, to the Center. If you bring your reservation to the Center, you will be given tickets for the event. If you mail your reservation, a ticket will not be issued. The night of the event please tell the hospitality person that your reservation and payment were mailed and this will be verified.

In addition to check and cash, you can pay by MasterCard and Visa. However, this payment type must be done in person at the Center.

All reservations for this event must be pre-paid. We will be unable to accept any form of payment the evening of the dinner.

Old Colorado City Historical Society
One South Twenty-fourth Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904
719-636-1225