

# WEST Old Colorado City Historical Society WORD

MARCH 1999

## Come Visit With Winfield Scott Stratton

The March OCCCHS meeting will be held on Friday the 12th at the Center. The program will feature Richard Marold, who will portray Winfield Scott Stratton and will talk about the various facets of Stratton's life and day.

Stratton was born in Indiana in July, 1848. He arrived in Colorado Springs inn 1872 and opened a carpentry shop on Pikes Peak Avenue. By 1874, Stratton became interested in prospecting and mining. He began spending his winters as a carpenter in Colorado Springs to pay for his prospecting activities during the summers.

As a lark, he went prospecting with his friend, Bob Womack, in the Cripple Creek area. He bought several claims on Battle Mountain in the Cripple Creek District without much success. Then, in an abandoned area of his Independence Mine he discovered a rich vein of gold in July,

The January OCCCHS meeting was held at the Center with about 50 members and visitors attending. The speaker for the meeting was our own, Paul Idleman, Director of the Old Colorado City History Center. Paul is very knowledgeable on the history of the West and especially on the interesting and colorful history of the Pikes Peak Region. He has been a recent speaker on this topic at the Garden of the God's Visitor Center and at several local schools.

Paul presented a slide history of Old Colorado City using photos, maps and research from the History Center's collections. He originally had been planning the program as an orientation for History Center docents. Training for summer docents will begin soon. This program and others will be given to help train volunteers who are interested in guiding visitors to the History Center through Old Town's history.

In his presentation, Paul reviewed the early expeditions into this area by several groups. It was very informative to

1893. Stratton became an overnight millionaire.

He was one of the most colorful, lucky, unlucky -- and viewed one way, tragic -- of the major figures to populate Colorado Springs in the early days. He didn't cut the public figure or the social swath of founder William J. Palmer. In many respects he was the more genuinely human (and interesting) of the two. His unbreakable will and testament has been a study tool at legal institutions. Upon his death, Stratton's estate created the Myron Stratton Home, named for his father.

Richard Marold is the Executive Director of the Cheyenne Mountain Heritage Center. He previously presented a program for us in costume and character as Lloyd "Pappy" Shaw.

You will not want to miss this interesting, entertaining, and informative program. Mark your calendars *now* and plan on attending.

be able to relate the paths of these expeditions to the local geographic area. He covered in detail the establishment of the town of Colorado City and many of the trials and tribulations that people encountered in the early days of the town's existence. He related the tremendous growth during the gold rush days and subsequent mining activities. During this growth period, the city became a "rough and touch" western town. Associated with this growth, were the stories of "saloon row" and the "ladies of the night." He then brought into perspective the settling of Colorado Springs by William Palmer. Many interesting facts were presented about the "conflicts" between the two towns, which continued over a span of many years.

Members who attended the meeting left with a good perspective of the major activities that occurred during the founding and lifetime of Colorado City. Thank you Paul, for this fine presentation.

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:

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1 South 24th Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th DAY OF EACH MONTH.

## MISSION

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

## MEMBERSHIPS

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

Annual memberships classifications are as follows:

Individual .....\$20 Business.....\$50  
Family .....\$25 Corporate.....\$250

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Robert Heinrich ..... 448-9001  
Vice President Dave Hughes ..... 636-2040  
Secretary Betsy Evans ..... 635-4782  
Treasurer Don Kallaus ..... 630-0392  
Beverley Disch ..... 634-5023  
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Gordon Gray ..... 630-8238  
Jerry Jekel ..... 380-7010  
Agnes Johnson ..... 633-8040  
Mel McFarland ..... 533-1311  
Jim Pratt .....

## 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 & Program**  
April 12, 1999  
at the History Center

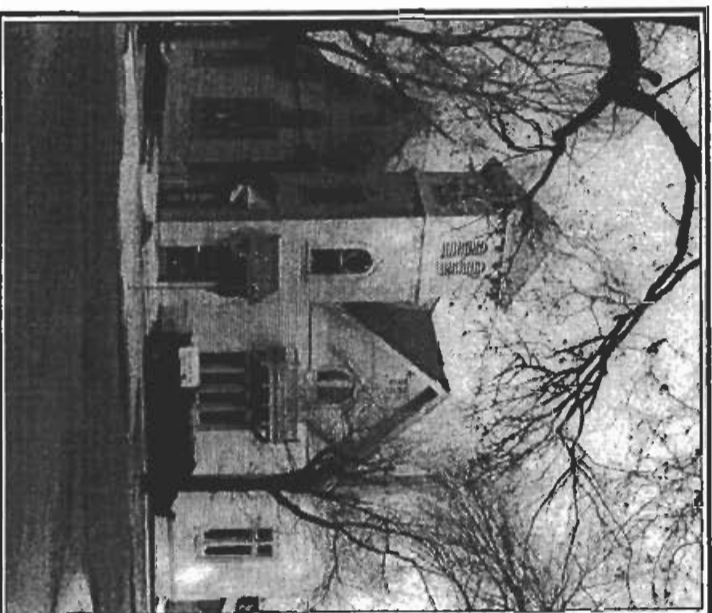


photo by Don Kallaus

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1 South 24th Street  
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# WEST SIDE MEMORIES

## TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

compiled by Jan Knox

### ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO Winter 1874

☞ The Manitou House keeps up a fair complement of guests, fresh arrivals being registered nearly every day. The Billiard Hall and Bowling Alley are now in full operation, and add considerably to the attractiveness of the Hotel. (1/17 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*)

☞ We had a short interview with Bishop Machebouef, of the Catholic Church, on Tuesday last. He informed us that he had secured a lot and proposed to build a Church in Colorado Springs without delay. He is energetically engaged in procuring subscriptions for the same. (1/17 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*)

☞ A resident in Colorado City asks us to direct the attention of the County Commissioners to the absolute necessity of doing something to the Court House building in that town. It is declared to be in a very unsafe condition. (1/24 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*)

☞ Prospectors who have not yet lost all faith in Old Pike as a treasure-house, are still prospecting in the neighborhood for indications of the precious metals. (1/24 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*)

☞ When the addition to the Methodist Church is completed, the building will seat about 100 more persons than formerly. We understand that the additional accommodation is likely to be fully occupied at once. Owing to the work of enlargement, there will be no services there tomorrow. (1/24 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*)

☞ The Town Tax Collector publishes his "Last Notice." Let all men take heed. (2/7 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*)

☞ The vote of the House of Representatives--16 to 7--for the removal of the Capital from Denver to Pueblo, seems to

have fallen upon the Denver News with a stunning force. It should convince Denver that the proper policy for that city and its Press is not to put themselves into antagonism with every other place in the Territory. Such a vote could scarcely have been obtained at the present time but for the fact that nearly every town in northern as well as southern Colorado, owes Denver a grudge for one reason or another. The issue of the present action in the Capital question is as yet uncertain, the Council voting upon it this afternoon. Whichever way it may be decided, we incline to the opinion that two or three years will see Colorado Springs the seat of government. (2/7 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*)

☞ The Utes have moved their camp from Cheyenne Creek into the Mountains. (2/7 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*)

☞ The charter of the "Colorado College" has been filed with the County Recorder during the week. The following are the Trustees named in the charter: Richard C. Bristol; J. M. Sturtevant, jr.; Edward B. Tutfull; Washington McClintock; Theo. C. Jerome; Wm. S. Jackson; Thomas N. Haskell. (2/21 *The Colorado Springs Gazette*)

### SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO Winter 1924

☞ Miss Lola Huffman and Mr. George Trichak were quietly married New Year's eve at the Sacred Heart church parsonage by Father L. F. Hagus at 12 o'clock midnight. The ceremony started just a few minutes before the midnight hour, and ended as the whistles and bells announced the New Year. Those present were Miss Eleanor Nichols, Mr. Nels Peterson and the immediate families. The happy couple departed shortly after the ceremony for Chicago, where they will make their home. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Huffman, and has assisted her parents in the Bon Ton bakery. The groom is a rapidly rising employee of the Western Electric company of Chicago. (1/4 *Colorado Springs Independent*)

☞ James A Trout, aged seventy-one years, died at the family home, 713 South Twenty-Fifth street, early Friday morning, after a long illness. The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Sunday in Bethany Baptist church, with burial in Fairview cemetery, in charge of Blunt & Son. Mrs. Trout is the only survivor. "Jim" Trout, as he was well-known, was a pioneer of Colorado City. For over thirty-five years he and Mrs. Trout resided on the south side. For a great many years, he was in the employ of the street department of Colorado City. It is doubtful if any man served the city longer than he served. (1/4 *Colorado Springs Independent*)

☞ BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH--Next Sunday evening (January 6) we are to have a rare treat in our church. Dr. Thomas Moody and wife from Africa are to be with us. They are royal entertainers, excellent characters and very able speakers. Be sure to hear them. All seats are free. Next Wednesday evening (January 9) will occur our annual meeting, which will begin promptly at 6:30, with a chicken supper. All members are urged to be present and answer to the roll call. The pastor wishes to express his appreciation and gratitude to the Ladies' Aid society for the fine turkey which came up for the Christmas dinner of himself and family. (1/4 *Colorado Springs Independent*)

☞ Last week the Independent completed its forty-first year of existence. The old Colorado City Iris was started in 1883, but by whom we do not know; perhaps by W. P. Epperson. If not by him, it soon came into his possession. In 1903, he traded it to W. I. Merwin and W. D. Ascough. The latter sold out to Merwin, who later sold to a man named Fulkerson, who traded it to D. L. Hullinger, who sold it to the writer. We sold it to R. A. Hampshire, who sold it to Bert Howard, who sold it to S. C. Landes.....and on it goes. That is some newspaper history, covering forty-one years. Ups and downs, did you say? Somewhat, but mainly downs. However, the Independent is more of a newspaper now than at any time since its birthing, and is going to grow right along with this city. (2/8 *Colorado Springs Independent*)

☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

# OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORY CENTER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## *March 11, 1999 - China: A Slide Show*

Ann Donovan & Sherry Dell  
*A Benefit for The Wolf Rescue Center at Lake George* plus  
a talk on wolf hybrids by Darlene Kobobel, including  
an appearance by Chinook the gray wolf.  
7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Admission by donation  
Old Colorado City History Center.

## *April 6, 1999*

Advanced Aroma Therapy - Muscle Reflex  
7 p.m. - \$6 donation  
Reservations call Carol at 630-1237

## *April 9, 1999 - General Meeting & Program*

Refreshments & visitation begin at 10 a.m.  
Program begins at 11 a.m.

## *April 21, 1999*

Aroma Therapy - Introductory Class  
7 p.m. - \$3 donation  
Reservations call Penny at 520-0464

## *March 12, 1999 - General Meeting & Program*

**A Visit With Winfield Scott Stratton**  
Richard Marold  
Director of the Cheyenne Mountain Heritage Center  
Refreshments & visitation begin at 10 a.m.  
Program begins at 11 a.m.

## *April 22, 1999*

Advanced Aroma Therapy  
Releasing Emotional Patterns  
7 p.m. - \$6 donation  
Reservations call Carol at 630-1237  
or Ann at 533-0312

## *March 16, 1999 - Aroma Therapy - Introductory Class*

7 p.m. - \$3 donation  
Reservations call Penny at 520-0464

## *March 30, 1999*

Advanced Aroma Therapy - Essential Oils  
7 p.m. - \$6 donation  
Reservations call Ann at 533-0312

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