

WEST WORD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

April 2000

CRASHED TOGETHER *Head-End Collision on the Colorado Midland*

A frightful head-end collision took place on the Midland railroad early in the morning, on February 18, 1893, a half mile east of Bath and about 85 miles west of Colorado Springs. (Near the top of Trout Creek Pass on US 24-285) Two passenger trains met with terrific force which resulted in the death of three employees of the road. These were Engineer Frank McCammon, Fireman Joseph McIntyre and Brakeman Joel Bowersock. Four passengers were more or less injured, one being Miss Julia McMullen, whose shoulder was dislocated and hip cut; S.A. Judd, head injured; Charles M. Stilson of Aspen and one other whose name could not be learned.

The trains which collided were No. 2 coming east in charge of Conductor Riley Miller and No. 3 going west in charge of Conductor Heath. Both trains were late, No. 2 one and one half hours, No. 3 forty minutes. They were running on time orders about twenty-five miles an hour. Number 2 remained for the time ordered at Bath and was about a half mile out when the collision took place. No. 3 was evidently trying to reach Bath before the other left the siding. They met in a cut which was also a curve.

Two baggage cars were destroyed and two coaches badly damaged, but neither the sleeping car or the coaches were even scratched. Neither of the engines or the cars turned over but the engines, number 17 and 19, were interlocked and remained upright on the tracks. The smoking cars telescoped and were filled in a moment with wood and iron debris. The passengers in them were in several instances were thrown under a pile of seats and were rescued with difficulty. A fire broke out quickly from the car stove but was extinguished quickly before there was much damage to the cars. The passengers were all very frightened and all the

horrors of a wreck were brought vividly before them. Those who were uninjured set out quickly to work and succeeded in rescuing the unfortunate ones who were under the debris.

The engineer of No. 2, Frank McCammon, was buried beneath his engine. He was taken out in a horribly bruised and scalded condition and placed in a Pullman. He died at 6 o'clock in the morning.

The fireman of No. 3, Frank McIntyre, was killed instantly.

The brakeman, Joel Bowersock, was crushed between the coaches and death was instantaneous.

Conductor Miller was considerably cut about the head and Engineer Kissel was bruised. Both of these men kept at work and helped to rescue the passengers and clearing away the debris.

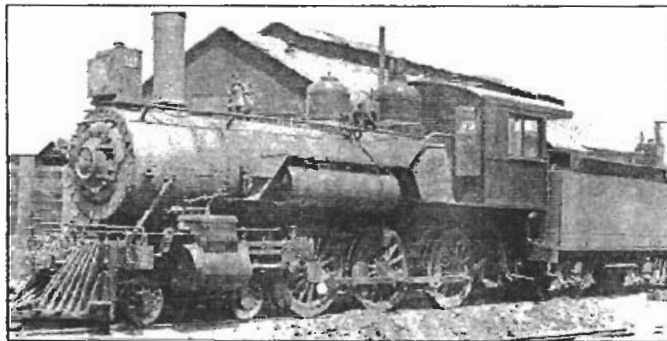
All day the friends and acquaintances of those who were killed and injured waited for the relief train to return. It came into Colorado City about 4:30 p.m. A large crowd awaited the train coming with the dead and wounded. Engineer Kissel was one of the first to get off. He walked slowly to the waiting carriage and throwing his unin-

jured arm about his wife, kissed her as if in thankfulness that his life had been spared.

In the yard of the little home of Engineer McCammon on Colorado Avenue, three children played and talked and sang blissfully unconscious, while the grief stricken mother hid her face and wept bitter tears because the father and the protector of the home had thus been ruthlessly taken away.

J.H. McIntyre, the dead fireman, resided at 31 Stillman Street, Colorado Springs. He leaves a wife and one child. All of the dead were members of

(continued on page 4)



Engine # 19 - Photo from: *A Colorado Midland Guide & Data Book* by Edward M. "Mel" McFarland - used with permission

From the Board

The President's Message

March was a busy month around the Center. The renovation of the basement area continues and it is beginning to look like 'presentable space' thanks to Richard Rhodes. The audio/video lab is set up and several sessions have already taken place in this new facility. A room that was used entirely for the storage of office/wall cubicles has been cleared out and ready to use. The entry way now looks like an entrance with a new coat of paint.

My thanks to all the members who helped with the OCCHS Bake Sale on the Saturday of the St. Pat's Parade. We had a table full of homemade goodies and sales were brisk. Over one hundred dollars was made and put into our operating fund. Thank you everyone.

The Technology Sale is coming up the last part of April and if you have any items to donate for this sale, please contact the Center. We hope to make this 'first of a kind event' a big success. Also, coming up in May will be our Spring cleanup afternoon. Please help us get the Center looking good for the Spring and Summer. We need mowers, trimmers, painters, rakers, etc. Call the Center and leave your name.

I am pleased to announce that Betty Baker has accepted a position on the Board, filling the position that was left vacant by Jack Ekstom's resignation. Jack could not continue on the Board due to personal and business commitments. I want to thank Jack for all his help on the Board and especially all the publicity work that he has been involved with over the past two years. I want to welcome Betty to the Board. She has served on the Board in the past and is very active in the Society. She currently is a volunteer in the bookstore and at other special OCCHS events. She is in charge of the membership activities for the Society.

The annual election of new Board members will take place at our May General Meeting. Please plan on attending this meeting and showing your support to the Board.

Until next month,

Gordon

Treasurer's Report

As expected, we had more costs than income in the winter month of February. We experienced a \$2,316 loss for the month. Bookstore sales were slow and utility costs were high. However, we did realize \$602 from our little Mystery Theater venture.

We have sufficient reserves and low enough personnel costs to get us to the higher income summer months.

The Board decided to buy \$20,000 additional insurance which will now cover all our "property" inside the Center; i.e., the chairs, sound system, cases, books, etc. The artifacts are not covered under this additional insurance. Our insurance cost starting April 4th went down by \$61 for next year, the \$60 increase in the property insurance is covered. We are \$1 ahead for the year!!!

Dave Hughes

Library News

From the resource library comes the legend of the lizard-dragon in a book called *The Young Fifty-niners*, by LeRoy E Ellinwood. This tale is from the Kiowa tribe which was never very large. They explain it this way.

"A long, long time ago, the great spirit, Manitou, looked down from the sky. He saw many buffalo, deer and antelope on the plains. There was plenty of game. He decided to bring some more Indians into the world.

So the Great Spirit, walked out of the sky and down the mountains to the plains. Soon he found a hollow log along a stream of water. He tapped the log with his war club. Each time he struck the log, an Indian came out. Then a big fat squaw tried to come from the log, but she was too fat. No more Indians could come out.

The great Spirit turned away, "You will call yourselves Kiowas! Your tribe will be small!

There is the story also about Cheyenne Mountain....."Once long ago it rained and rained for many days and nights. Soon most of the land was covered with water. The Great Spirit, Manitou, looked down from the sky. He saw the trouble the rains had brought. Only the Indians on the highest mountains were alive. They asked the Great Spirit to help them. The Great Spirit called for a great-lizard dragon to come out of the Happy Hunting Ground. His name was 'Thirst.' He told the lizard-dragon to fly down to Earth and drink up the water.

The great lizard-dragon flew down from the sky. He was happy to see so much water. He drank and drank. Every day the water went lower and lower. Finally, the Great Spirit feared he would drink all of the streams and lakes dry. The Great Spirit called for the lizard-dragon to come back. The lizard-dragon tried to obey. He rose to his feet and flapped his wings, but he could not lift himself. He tried and tried. Finally with a great effort, he left the ground. But he was too heavy and he fell back. His wings were broken off in the fall. His neck was broken and his spirit left him.

Today you can see his body. The Great Spirit turned it into a mountain which we call Cheyenne Mountain. If you use your imagination, Cheyenne Mountain does look something like the body of a great dragon. At least that is the Indian story about it."

Mrs. Ellinwood was the librarian for many years at the Old Colorado City Carnegie Library. Her son, who grew up here, wrote the book.

Article by: Agnes Johnson

Crashed Together

(continued from page 1)

the El Paso Lodge, Knights of Pythias of Colorado City, and the funeral services were held under the auspices of the order. All were old and respected employees of the Midland.

The funerals of McCammon, McIntyre and Bowersock took place in Colorado City under the auspices of the K. of P. Lodge, the Masons, and Brotherhood- Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.

The funerals of the men killed were not held on Sunday, as supposed would be the case, but were held later. The funeral of Engineer Frank McCammon was held at the First Baptist Church of Colorado City on Monday. The Reverend F. W. Hart officiated and about 500 people were present. This was probably the largest funeral service ever held in Colorado City. After the services, a special train carried the remains and the funeral party to Evergreen Cemetery.

The remains of Brakeman Bowersock were interred at Riverside Cemetery in Denver. A special car was attached to the Santa Fe train which carried the remains and a large group of friends.

The funeral for Fireman Joseph McIntyre was held on Tuesday, awaiting the arrival of friends from the east.

Today we know the Baptist Church as the Old Colorado City History Center, One South Twenty-fourth Street, Colorado Springs, CO.

by: Mel McFarland

The Death of Edward Baxter

(transcribed from the Colorado City Iris
May 22, 1897)

OPIUM DID IT

So Says The Coroner's Jury in the Case
of Ed 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 with 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 gamble and finally sought the pleasure of the pipe. His downfall was rapid, but throughout all his career he was very liberal with his money to those who were actually in need.

He came to Colorado City about six months 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 hay, pillows stuffed 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, after recovering from their stupor, went up stairs 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 Marshal 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.

(editor's note: Lance Michels, a member of OCCHS, portrays Ed Baxter in the annual OCCHS Fairview Cemetery Crawl. The remains of Ed Baxter lie in an unmarked grave in the pauper section of the cemetery. Lance's closing remarks during his reenactment are: "I am living proof that drugs can kill a person!")

Mark Your Calendar

June 11

"Blast from the Past"

MEMBER PROFILE

The History Center can boast of having a volunteer in the book store who is unique in a special way. This vivacious and friendly lady was born in a suburb of Chicago.

Her romance that led to marriage began on a ballroom floor where she met Joe. This was a dance hall where young people gathered to mingle, meet, and try out new dance steps on ballroom dancing. She married Joe in 1956. He was a design engineer with Ford Aircraft. They have four children; two boys and two girls. One daughter lives in Colorado Springs, the other is in Woodland Park. One son lives in a Chicago suburb and the other lives in Atlanta.

On a family vacation in 1956, they came to Colorado. They fell in love with the area and decided that when they retired they would move to Colorado Springs. They arrived here in 1990.

She loves to sew, but her main interest is in outdoor activities. She hikes with a group on Mondays, weather permitting. They do not walk the mall on those days.

You know what makes **Margaret**, better known as **Marg, Knorr** so special and unusual?

Would you believe.....she HATES to SHOP!

Welcome New OCCHS Members

We welcome the following new members to the Society. Please update your membership directories.

Patty Strauch	1416 W. Pikes Peak Colo. Spgs. 80904 (719) 634-0966
Catherine Conrad	P.O. Box 38849 Colo. Spgs. 80937-8849 (719) 633-3582
Madora J. Boyd	P.O. Box 745 Rochester, WA 98579-0745 (360) 273-5779

Election to the Board of Directors

It is almost May again and time for the OCCHS election of candidates for the Board of Directors. Members need to be elected to fill five Board of Directors seats at our May 12th General Meeting at the History Center. The four Board members continuing their terms until May 2001 are Dave Hughes, Leo Janzen, Betty Baker, and Don Ellis. Thanks to Bev Disch, LaRue Ebersole, and Valerie Maslowski for serving on the OCCHS Nominating Committee and selecting the following Board candidates.

Beverley Disch is seeking reelection to our Board. She has been a very active OCCHS member as Chair for the Volunteer Coordinating Committee, making sure we always have our Book & Gift Shop and various events staffed with volunteer members. She currently serves as the Vice-president of the Board and is a past Treasurer of the Society. Bev is a retired elementary school teacher (28 years), a finalist for the Silver Bell volunteer award, and AAUW member.

La Rue Ebersole is a graduate of the University of Colorado with a degree in electrical engineering. He retired in 1986 after a long and very successful career. He and his wife Pat live in Crystal Park and enjoy round dancing and gardening. He is very active as a volunteer with OCCHS.

Gordon Gray is currently the President of OCCHS, having served on the Board for almost two years. He was appointed to fill a vacant Board position in 1998. He is a professional genealogist and actively involved in local and national genealogy organizations. Gordon currently serves as a vice-president of the Pikes Peak Genealogical Society in Colorado Springs. He and his wife, Becky, have lived in Springs for seven years. He is a retired telecommunications executive.

Agnes Johnson is a Charter member, Past President, and Lifetime member of the Society. She is also seeking reelection to our Board. She is active as a book shop volunteer and a member of our Library Committee, preparing our books and reference materials for public research.

Jack Patterson attended Ohio University; spent 10 years working on Defense contracts in England, France, Germany, Israel, India and Japan; and 20 years with AGA, an international company. Upon retiring 12 years ago, he and his wife, Bev, moved to Colorado Springs from California. They are avid historians and are members of numerous local and national historical organizations. Jack organized the group which is a 501(c)(3) organization to fund The Prospector sculpture on the corner of 21st Street and Hwy. 24.

The candidates will be at our May meeting and available to discuss their qualifications. The election will follow the introduction of the candidates. Additional nominations can be made from the floor. Your vote is important and all members are urged attend this election meeting.

West Side Memories

One Hundred & Twenty-five Years Ago
February 1875

In order to avoid confusion with the Bergen's Prk of Jefferson County, the proprietors of the estate known to us by that name have decided to change its name to Manitou Park, it being distant only 17 miles from the well-known watering place. A new Hotel is to be build in the park next Summer. At biweekly Coach is to be established, and Trout fishing and a variety of other attractions will be offered to visitors. A large Trout-hatching establishment is in full running order, and the little "shiners" are appearing at the rate of a thousand a day. (2/6 CS Gazette)
(This refers to present day Woodland Park - Jan)

We had the pleasure on Wednesday, of an introduction to Dr. H.K. Palmer, who has come hither—on account of his state of health—with the intention of settling and practicing his profession. Dr. Palmer was recently a Missionary Physician in India, and his practice both in that country and in this has been very extensive; for four years during the War he was a Surgeon in the Union Army. (2/6 C.S. Gazette)

We beg to suggest to the proprietors of Union Block that they would do well to put in a box from their water spout to the Ditch on Pike's Peak Avenue. This weather, the sidewalk is covered with ice, in consequence of the water which it discharges during the occasional thaws. (2/6 CS Gazette)

Tuesday night was the most severe ever yet experienced at the Signal Station on the summit of Pike's Peak, the thermometer being 37 degrees below zero, and the wind 90 miles an hour—the lowest temperature and the highest wind which have yet been recorded. (2/6 CS Gazette)

We have to thank M.J.A. Nicols, of the Colorado Springs and Fairplay Stage Line, for an Annual pass over his Line. Sometime before long, we shall try to tell our readers something about the South Park Country. (2/6 CS Gazette)

March 1875

As soon as Spring opens, a large part of our "shabby-gentee!" populations will migrate to San Juan. (3/6 CS Gazette)

Colorado Springs has twenty-one Additions and Subdivisions." Surely it is time for it to become a City! (3/6 CS Gazette)

Mr. Summers has been adapting the Designs for the Schoolhouse to stonework, and building will be pushed rapidly as soon as the weather will allow. (3/6 CS Gazette)

Mr. Harrison has resigned the office of Town Attorney, his reason being, we believe, that Judge McFerran continually took it upon himself to question his opinions and set aside his advice. Mr. Harrison, we incline to think, has more law in his little finger than the Judge has in his whole body. (3/6 CS Gazette)

The editor of the *Mountaineer* isn't to be blamed for running round the streets in a seminude condition. He can't help himself; some inhuman wretch stole part of his clothing from the clothes line the other night. (3/6 CS Gazette)

Something must be done about Jacobs' Buffalo. The other day, a couple of visitors who had been to Cheyenne Canon, were returning to Colorado Springs, and when they got to the Bridge over the Fountain, one of the animals appeared before them, which a steady gaze and determined front, and so alarmed them, they turned back with undignified haste and never stopped until they reached a house where they were assured that the animals were quite tame and harmless. We don't know what to suggest. Perhaps a large card bearing the words "I am Tame" in bold letters, tacked on their foreheads, might serve. We advise Mr. Jacobs to think about the matter. (3/6 CS Gazette)

April 1875

Canon City coal is a scarce article, and many of our citizens are sorry they did not lay in a stock before the strike of the miners. (4/3 CS Gazette)

The docket of the April term of the District Court is said to be very large. it contains no less than half-a-dozen criminal cases, including three murder trials. (4/3 CS Gazette)

Mr. Macomber has a number of men engaged in putting the ditches in excellent condition, and water will be running throughout town next week. (4/3 CS Gazette)

Mr. John Hewitt, having repurchased the Milk Ranch formerly owned by him, is again supplying our citizens with milk. (4/3 CS Gazette)

West Side Memories are compiled by: Jan Knox

OCCHS MAIL BAG

Each month, this column will list some of the e-mail and other correspondence that we have received and which we thought would be of interest. If you have a question or comment, please address them to the West Word Editor at:

1 South 24th Street
Colorado Spgs, CO 80904
OR
e-mail at: history@oldcolo.com.

February 27, 2000

HI - I'm an architecture student at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and I have to write a research paper covering a neighborhood with some ethnic/cultural background to it and discuss its past, present, future, some key architectural examples of the past, and how the city has evolved over time. Would the OCCHS be able to help me find information concerning these issues? Do you have resources directly available such as historical maps (available for copying) or anything else which may be of help?

Thanks for your time

Frank Mataiplue.

<Frank.Mataiplue@Colorado.EDU>

Dear Frank---I think we have some information that will be useful to you in preparing your research paper. Please give me a call at your earliest convenience and we can make arrangements for you to visit the Center and do some research.

Gordon Gray, President OCCHS

February 27, 2000

HI- My name is Kalli and I live in Fort Worth, Texas. When my father passed away I inherited an old pocket watch from him. It has an unusual dial - the numbers look like logs and it has the name: D.L. Marcher, Colo City, CO, on it -- it is really a great old time piece.

In looking through your web site, in the 1888 directory listings, I found a D.L. Marcher - jeweler listed.

I was wondering if you might have any further information regarding this person and/or his business? I love old watches and I would love to have as much history about my watch as possible.

Thank you for your time.

Kindest regards, Kalli <turks@swbell.net>

Dear Kalli - thank you for your e-mail and we know that you are proud of this priceless time piece. We will look through our library holdings and see if we can find additional information on the jeweler and if we do, we will contact you. Come see us if you are ever in Colorado and bring the watch to show off.

Tech Committee

Many members are not sure what, besides operating our History Center Web Site, that the Technology Committee does back in the mysterious high tech computer room.

It is not too much to say that, except for the Digital Technology owned and operated by the Society this Society would not be as far along as it is in administration, record keeping, communications, and historical storage and presentation.

The main computer, an NT 4.0 machine, not only holds our web site everyone knows about (and which 4,000 people accessed last year from around the world--nearly as many, 6,000 as walked in the door), but also the vital History Center Data Base. This is the ultimate repository of the records of all 20,000 photographs and 5,000 artifacts that are owned by the Society.

We now have two additional work stations, from which volunteers are entering into the data base the accessioning sheets that are being produced for every item we own. We are perhaps about 1/10th finished. LaDonna Gunn is responsible for this activity.

Our computerized membership lists are also on the computer and include label printing, tracking of renewal dates, and the printing of the membership renewal letters. Betty Baker is responsible for this operation.

We can make floppy disks with work in progress so that volunteers can carry the work home to their own computer. We routinely scan in photos and drawings for our newsletter.

We use the e-mail system, which is linked through Old Colorado City Communications Company to the Internet, to handle requests for research. This is at no cost to the Society. We also use the e-mail and Internet capability to collect further history about Colorado City and coordinate work between members of many of the Society's committees.

The computer in the main display room, where visitors to the Center can access our Web Site, look at early photographs and manuscripts, and listen to the digitized recorded voices of the Pioneers, is linked to the main server in the computer room.

Soon this network will extend into the storage and audio visual room in the basement of the History Center.

The Audio Visual Room has been set up by Richard Rhodes who is a video and radio producer and has loaned the Center this equipment. He is already doing vital audio-video 'interviews' of old time Westsiders about local history.

Our digital copier, which is used as a general copying machine, as well as being our low cost but fine quality newsletter printing machine, has the potential for being directly connected to the computers for even higher quality photographs for our newsletter.

Our Technology Committee consists of Dave Wolverton, Rich Stribling, Steve Holden, Clark Curtis, Richard Rhodes, Paul Hanke, LaDonna Gunn, and Dave Hughes. They have laid solid plans for ultimately archiving on CD Roms all of the photograph holdings of the Society.

Dave Hughes, Technology Committee Chair