WEST





OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 6

August 2001

COLORADO CITY COLORADO'S FIRST TERRITORIAL CAPITAL

COLORADO CITY, THE HOME OF THE PIONEER
COLORADO'S FIRST TERRITORIAL CAPITAL
IN THE DAYS WHEN THE WAR WHOOP
OF THE REDSKIN WAS ANSWERED BY
"PIKES'S PEAK OR BUST"
by Robert McReynolds
Colorado Springs Gazette, September 20, 1906
transcribed by Jan Knox

A few stragglers were in the west from the time of the Lewis and Clarke expedition, mostly hunters, trappers and traders, but there was no marked movement west of the Mississippi river until the rush of 1849 to the California gold fields, except the pilgrimage of the Mormons, in 1847-48. It was not until 1858 that the rush to the Rocky mountains began. About that time, rumors of gold discoveries in the Pike's Peak region began to be heard, and parties were organized to go in search of the yellow metal.

Anthony Bott, now an honored citizen of Colorado City, was a member of one of these parties. Another party was accompanied by A. Z. Sheldon, also a well-known and highly respected citizen of Colorado City.

Mr. Bott's party was made up at Westport, now Kansas City, Mo., in the spring of 1858. The party numbered fifty men and one woman, and was in command of Captain John Price. The route followed was the popular one at that time--up the Arkansas valley to where Pueblo now stands, thence north along the Fountaine Qui Bouille. The pioneers were searching for gold and they pushed on to the Platte river, striking it about six miles above Cherry creek, where Overland Park in Denver is now situated. Here they laid out a town and named it Montana. The conditions were not satisfactory to some of the men, however, and Captain John Price, Anthony Bott, George A. Bute, E. Gilmore, James Winchester, William Rhine, Hank Boone, with others to the number of twenty-five, returned to the Fountaine and laid out a new town under the name of El Dorado. This was in November, 1858.

In the spring of 1859, the rush to the newly-discovered gold fields in Gilpin county depopulated the town. The pioneers met with disappointment, and in the fall of 1859, Messrs. Bott, Bute, Gilmore, Winchester, Prince, M. S. Beach, Louis N. Tappan, Richard E. Witsett, W. Parke McClure, S. W. Waggoner

and A. Z. Sheldon returned to El Dorado and organized another town site company, this time naming it Colorado City.

The town of Colorado City immediately entered upon a career of prosperity after its organization in 1859. It is said over 100,000 persons came to the territory in 1860, a large part of them coming over the Arkansas valley route, which brought them to Colorado City, the first town of any importance after leaving the eastern plains of Kansas.

In 1860, the town had 300 houses and was second in importance only to Denver. In 1861, the Territory of Colorado, having been duly constituted by Congress, Colorado City, as the only rival of Denver, set about to secure the honors of the territory. As selections for candidates for the first legislature were to be made, care was taken to choose only such as were favorable to Colorado City for the territorial capital. The result was an overwhelming majority for the deserved location. The law provided that the governor and secretary should reside in the capital. Governor Evans, however, had invested his money in Denver real estate. Therefore, he did not want to move to Colorado City. Neither did he transfer any public business to Colorado City or make any arrangements for the forthcoming session of the legislature. Consequently, when the legislature began to arrive in Colorado City from their respective districts, in some cases from 100 to 150 miles away, they were without funds and some had nothing but parched corn to sustain them on their arduous journey. They were dependent upon their per-diem compensation as members of the legislature to keep them from starvation, and when Governor Evans remarked that his doubts as to the legality of the body might not have as much weight in Denver, the legislative body adjourned to Denver, July 11, 1862. The loss of the capital to Colorado City was a severe blow at this time, when she had an even chance for the first place in the terri-

Those were strenuous days for the pioneers in Colorado City. The nation was in the throes of the great rebellion, and the eastern borders of Kansas, through which the emigrants to the Pike's Peak region must pass, was aflame with fire and steel. The wild plains Indians were hostile, which added to the perils and stress of the times. "And yet it seems to me, people were happier in Colorado City in early days than now," said J. B. Sims, a pioneer of the sixties.

continued on page 4

Old Colorado City Historical Society

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

WEST WORD

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WEST WORD Editor c/o OCCHS 1 South 24th Street Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th 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 establishment of a History Center.

MEMBERSHIPS

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

Annual membership classifications are:

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

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MEETINGS

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

Next Monthly Meeting September 14, 2001



Explore the <u>REAL</u> History at the OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORY CENTER

1 South 24th Street (the corner of Pikes Peak & 24th Streets) (719) 636-1225

FREE ADMISSION

Summer Hours
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Message from the President of the Old Colorado City Historical Society

The History Center is humming along with much activity. We had an excellent workshop for the board and volunteers given by La Donna Gunn, archivist, about accessioning our collections. Jan Knox is running our very successful fundraiser (crafts in the Park) and she is finalizing plans for founders Day, Saturday and Sunday August 11 and 12. Plans are going forward for our Fourth Annual Cemetery Crawl. LaRue Ebersole contracted to have the west and south sides of our building repainted, put up our new maintenance shed, and will have the eves and gutters cleaned out. Nadine Gilman and her volunteers have the accessioning the books and pamphlets in the research library well in hand. She needs more volunteers who she'll train. Pat Fejedelem has put out many press releases about our coming events and she and Karla Heffenan have been doing releases for the B&B Tour in December.

Do come to the center to buy your guidebook for yourself and friends and look at Liz Guess's new exhibit about an artist Charles Craig, and the one on Luther McKnight who be quested us the money we used to buy our building. Kristine Van Wert is working with the Westside Coalition who are dealing with signage on West Colorado Ave. The Millennium Committees, Gordon Gray, Lucille Cunningham and Leland Fietz, have been appointed. They will be working on a time capsule to be placed in the middle of our commemorative bricks in our patio. We have places left if you haven't yet bought a brick. The money goes into our endowment fund. Cynthia Estes is coming up with a plan for accessioning rooms in the basement. She needs more volunteers and donations of heavy metal shelving, and a new vacuum cleaner. Dave Hughes technology committee needs volunteers to clean up our website. We have started an endowment fund called the Old Colorado City Historical Fund with the Pikes Peak Community Foundation; they administer millions of dollars for non-profit organizations. When you do your estate planning we have an excellent brochure done by Don Ellis and Jack Patterson to help you. Our members need to help this fund grown for our society. As always we need volunteers for the bookstore. We are an allvolunteer museum and we could not run it without you. We are so grateful for all our volunteers. Pick and area, come on in, and help.

Bev Disch July 2001

Treasurer's Report

As of the end of June, our Society and History Center are in sound financial shape, with prospects for the rest of the summer and fall also looking good.

Two large new income sources are showing early success. One is the Bancroft Crafts Fair Park (35 or more space rentals each week) that coincides with the popular Saturday Farmer's Market in Old Colorado City. The Fair's ably organized by Jan Knox and has already paid the city for our summer-long costs of about \$2,000, and is on the way to generating \$4,000 or more in revenue for the Society.

The other venture is the Walking Tour Book sales. Betsy Evans, who runs our bookstore and is a Board Member this year, reports that we have sold approximately \$1,500 worth of the books this first full month since the 3,000 copies were delivered. Over half of the sales are at its list price of \$10 through our book store, and the remainder — with the normal 40 or 55% discounts were through 6 resellers — including Chinook and McKenzie-White and some out of town distributors. All revenues from the books will now be clear income. Our Society cost was \$4,200. It's not too early for members to plan to buy 5 or more books each from our Center Bookstore. Which, with members 10% discount then sales tax, will cost \$47.50. They can be mailed for \$1.33 book rate. Where are you going to get, and ship, 5 Christmas Gifts for only \$50? Perfect gifts this first year of publication.

So going into the last half of 2001, we have over \$7,000 in the bank, with \$3,600 due us from the State. With projected bookstore sales, memberships, event income, and donations promising to cover our average \$650 a month operational costs – including needed building maintenance and replacement of some outside walks – we should still be fine by year's end.

The 'Old Colorado City Historical Society Trust' has been established with the Colorado Springs Community Foundation, so that members can offer, or solicit, large 'Planned giving' donations to the Society and Center. We have a fine informational booklet that can be given to any potential donor to explain this highly professional Trust management program and give donors confidentiality.

The Trust is not to be confused with our \$61,000 endowment fund which is invested in CD's earning 6% interest. If things go well to the end of the year we can consider building up that Endowment fund more and begin to head for that \$300,000 goal I, as your treasurer, estimate will let us operate – including some paid staff – off our interest income only, and put the money we otherwise earn, or is donated, into expansion of our Historical Collections, Displays, Publications, and Programs.

Dave Hughes

In Remembrance

Adele Dean

December 29, 1922 - July 6, 2001

Adel was a long time volunteer who accessioned the books and pamphlets in our research library. We are grateful she trained the volunteers who are following in her footsteps.

She will be remembered fondly and misses mightily.

"At Christmas times we had shooting matches, a horse race or two, plenty of Tom and Jerry, and usually wound up the day with a dance at the Anway fort and a supper at Smith and Baird's hotel. Often half a dozen families would arrange a friendly dinner at some neighbor's house, and the hotel men would make a big dinner and invite the ranchmen to come in and enjoy the festivities.

"The pious people who were averse to horse racing would generally pitch horseshoes and sometimes end the day in a big game of draw poker. There was not much money in circulation, and the betting on a horse race was commonly a sack of flour, a side of bacon or a shotgun.

"No, we never hung the horse thieves on Christmas. Those festivities were held until the new year, so as to start the community off with good resolutions.

"A premonition of danger warned me once of lurking hostile ludians on Cottonwood creek on the morning of December 26, 1868, resulting in a preparation for battle that probably saved my life.

"It was the day after Christmas, I was in the employ of the Beatty Brothers Cattle company and was looking up some stray cattle near the head of the Cottonwood creek, twenty miles north of Colorado City.

"I had been riding through the timber and was about to emerge into the open when a premonition of danger came over me. The feeling was so strong that I loosened my Henri rifle from the saddle holster and looked to the two heavy Colt revolvers I carried about me.

"Half an hour passed, and while I had not yet seen anything, I could not shake off the feeling of approaching danger.

Twenty minutes more and sure enough, from out of a ravine came about sixty Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians in their war paint, riding rapidly toward me.

"I instantly wheeled my horse and rode for a rocky butte about half a mile distant. My horse climbed the butte almost with the agility of a goat. As the bullets tore up the ground around us, I led him behind some big rocks and then paid my respects to the advancing war party.

"My Henri rife carried eighteen shots. The repeating rifle being then unheard of by these Indians, was the greatest surprise they ever met. My first shot emptied a saddle, and then when they thought to rush me, two or three more went down. They could not understand the rapidity of my fire, and by the time I had emptied my rifle, I had them on the run and out of range.

"They advanced two or three times during the day and I became amused and allowed them to come with easy range, when I would turn loose as fast as I could work the rifle, and scatter them.

"Late in the afternoon they gave me up as bad medicine and rode away toward Gomer's hill, where they killed a Mexican boy. They then swung back toward Palmer Lake and killed Mrs. Teeterman, who chanced to be alone on a ranch near the headwaters of Plumb creek.

"From that day, I have never doubted the existence of an unseen power which may warn us of approaching danger.

Indian depredations became so numerous in 1864 that a determined effort was made on the part of the settlers to punish the savage marauders. A mounted column left Colorado City early in November of that year under Colonel John M. Chivington. There were 650 Colorado volunteers of Colonel Shoup's Third regiment, 175 of the First Regiment and a few mounted Mexicans, forming the fighting force under Colonel Chivington. A large band of Indians was located on the banks of Sand creek, about forty miles north of where Fort Lyons now stands and near the village of Kit Carson.

Bent's fort, a frontier structure of palisades, some miles below Fort Lyons. It was to this point that Colonel Chivington led his men when he learned that Black Kettle and White Antelope with some 3,000 braves were encamped upon the banks of Sand creek.

The column made prisoners of all whom they met, lest word should reach the Indians that they were pushing forward to an attack. At Bent's fort, a halt was made to rest riders and horses. On the night of the 28th, the column headed for the encampment on Sand creek, taking as a guide a half-breed son of Colonel Bent, and carrying in their rear a small brass cannon and ammunition wagon.

The night was cold and a bleak wind blew from the north. With jingle of spur and clank of saber, the column rode fours abreast through the darkness. The Indian guide led them through a shallow lake in the hope that the ammunition might become wet. When about half way through the lake, a trooper's horse floundered and wet him completely in the icy waters. The column rode on while Anthony Bott remained to assist him. After diving his own dry clothing with him, the two started to find the trail of the flying column in the darkness. They were favored both by the instinct of their horses, but for five hours they were alone in the darkness of a hostile country

They came up with their command in the grey dawn of the morning as they were forming for battle behind a ridge that overlooked the Indian camp. Here Colonel Chivington divided his men, sending a column of twos in opposite directions so as to surround the camp. The Indians were in their tepees when the cannon sent a crash of iron into their midst. The battle was on. Chief White Antelope came rushing from his tepee brandishing a rifle, urging on his followers. The encircling horsemen closing in on them emptied their rifles and revolvers into the confused mass of Indians.

Indian depredations had been so numerous in Colorado and the atrocities so cruel that the men, many of whom had been victims of Indian raids and had lost their all, their families or friends being butchered, gave no quarter, and when the battle ended they felt even more justified when there was found with the tepees a number of scalps recently torn from the heads of white women and children. Nearly 1,000 Indians were killed when the firing ceased and a crimson tide ebbed into the creek and reddened its waters with blood.

A squaw and a boy were found hiding in the tall grass. A trooper shot the squaw and captured the boy. Bott bought the young Indian intending to free him.

Robert Findlay, Henry Coby and Anthony Bott, are the only continued on page 6

West Side Memories

COLORADO CITY IS FIFTY YEARS OLD
First Stakes in Original Townsite of City
Were Drove August 12, 1859
Colorado City Iris
August 13, 1909
transcribed by Jan Knox

Yesterday, August 12, 1909, Colorado City was 50 years old. Very few, if any, of her present population of five thousand people paid any attention to the day, if, indeed, they knew anything about it. But just 50 years ago, two men, M. S. Beach and R. E. Cable, drove the first stake in the original townsite and claimed for the company they represented title to 1280 acres. Of the company organized in Denver on August 11, 1859, Anthony Bott is still living here and in business; A. Z. Sheldon and M. S. Beach live in Colorado Springs.

OLDEST PIONEER OF REGION PASSES AWAY
M. S. Beach, Who Built First House Here, Died Yesterday
Colorado Springs Gazette
October 20, 1917
transcribed by Jan Knox

Melancthon Sayre Beach, aged 83 years, probably the oldest pioneer of the Pikes Peak Region, died at his home, 405 Cheyenne road, Ivywild, at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sophie Dresser Beach.

Mr. Beach was born in Sparta, N. J., in 1834 and received his education at Appleton college. He came to Colorado in 1858, locating in Denver, and was one of the pioneers of Denver, who formed the town company of Colorado City, and in May, 1859, started the greater Colorado Springs. Every since that time, Mr. Beach has been closely associated with the development of the city and region. Together with his partner, Rufus Cable, Mr. Beach was sent out by the Denver company to locate the city of Colorado City and it was then that the two men discovered the Garden of the Gods and gave it the name which is today famous the world over.

In the fall of 1862, Mr. Beach gave up his home life

to become a first lieutenant in McClain's Independent battery of the Union army and was ordered to Missouri and the southwest where he took part in several important engagements against the confederate forces. His career as a soldier also led him into active participation under Colonel Chivington in many Indian battles during the early settlement of the country east of Colorado Springs.

Before the settlement of the region, Mr. Beach was for eight years treasurer of Douglas county at Lawrence, Kansas, and in this office had jurisdiction over all of eastern Colorado and the Pikes Peak region, which at that time was considered a part of Kansas. Following the laying out of Colorado City and Colorado Springs, Mr. Beach was made the first clerk and recorder of the district and was a member of the first legislature of Colorado, which took action to make Colorado City the capital of the state.

In the settlement of Colorado City, and later Colorado Springs, Mr. Beach had a big part. He drove the first stake in Colorado City, at the mouth of Camp creek and located the 1,280 acres included in the original plat of Colorado Springs. To Mr. Beach also goes the credit of erecting the first house in Colorado City, built from logs hauled from Broadmoor near the site of the new Broadmoor hotel which is in process of erection. To him also goes the honor of giving to the new town the name of Colorado City, which Mr. Beach explained was but a symbol of the hope entertained by the founders that Colorado City would become the first city in Colorado.

Mr. Beach discovered and at one time owned the now famous Manitou mineral springs, which he disposed of at a sum of \$300 before the real value of the mineral water was discovered. During the early days, he was frequently sought as a guide up Pikes Peak and had the honor of directing many parties composed of persons prominent in the literary and scientific world.

Mr. Beach also was interested for many years in the development of silver mining in the San Juan district and during his 25 years service there was responsible in large part for some of the greatest financial deals in the district.

The funeral of Mr. Beach will be held from the Beyle undertaking rooms tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Friends may view the body at Beyle's previous to the funeral services. The interment in Evergreen cemetery will be private.

(There are some inaccuracies in this write-up as Colorado Springs was not founded until 1871 so should not be mentioned in regards to the founding of Colorado City--jan)

patients, was erected by Dr. J. N. Willard at a cost of \$8,000. survivors of that battle on Sand creek now living in Colorado City. In October, 1859, Albert D. Richardson of the New York Tribune, made a horseback ride from Taos, New Mexico, to Colorado City and published in his book, "Beyond the Mississippi," the early date pictures given on this page. They probably are the first ever made. In his book he says:

"October 8, journeyed up the Fountaine Qui Bouille directly toward Pike's Peak, which, with its dark wood sides and irregular turreted summit, towers far above all adjacent mountains. Plump antelopes abounded, so tame that when I stopped my pony a long herd of one hundred and twenty in single file crossed the path before me, with a stone's throw.

"Just before dark in the gigantic shadow of Pike's Peak, I reached a little sign board labeled 'Colorado Avenue.' I had not seen a single human being since morning, and the idea of a city in these solitudes savored of the ludicrous; but there it stood, unmistakable evidence of civilization and speculation."

The Colorado avenue which Mr. Richardson then saw, had been the early-day trail over which the painted Indians of the plains reached Ute pass, where they made annual excursions to trap beaver and fight with the Indians of the mountains. It is now the main street of Colorado City and is traversed yearly by tourists, representing the wealth, culture and intelligence of the two hemispheres.

Later when the vanguard of civilization reached the base of the Rockies, the pioneer made a wagon road along the trail, and this has been followed by electric cars, electric lights and all the adjuncts of civilization.

The discovery of the fabulous gold mines of Cripple Creek brought a new era of prosperity to Colorado City. Its location afforded the most convenient place for the treatment of ores extracted from the hills of that region. To this end, four big reduction works are located here—the Standard mill, and Colorado plant of U. S. Reduction & Refining Company, the Portland and the Golden Cycle. These furnish employment to about 900 men and have a pay roll of about \$70,000 a moth.

The Colorado Midland railroad shops, located here in 1886, have grown until they employ about 300 men whose monthly pay roll amounts to between \$35,000 and \$40,000.

The Schlessenger brick plant employs an average of 25 men and furnishes a pay roll of about \$1,300 a month. The Benn Brewer plant employs about the same number and has an average monthly pay roll of the same amount. The Pike's Peak Fire Brick company sends its products over many western states, and was awarded the first price at the St. Louis World's fair. Besides these, a number of smaller industries make a total of about \$110,000 paid out to workmen who reside in this city.

Colorado City is supplied with gas and electric lights, a telephone service from two opposition companies, and an ice plant, water from a mountain system which drains crystal lakes, pure as the snows which feed them, a street car service between Colorado Springs and Manitou, at a 5-cent fare to either place, a Carnegie library costing \$10,000, the new National hotel and National bank building that cost \$40,000; a Mill-men's club house that cost \$18,000, and an Emergency hospital that cost \$8,000. The city is built of substantial and good business structures.

Abundance of good coal can be had from the mines, from three to five miles distant, at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per ton. Crude petroleum has been found at a depth of 1,800 feet, and natural gas was discovered some years ago at a depth of 2,020 feet. Ray materials for Portland cement, Plaster of Paris, mineral paints of many kinds, fire brick and pottery clays suitable for the best brick and tile are to be found in abundance. Building stone is within easy reach—red, white, green and grey sandstones of fine texture and great strength. Near the city there are big limestone

quarries and coal beds.

Colorado City has twelve miles of handsome well-graded streets and avenues. All of them are wide and beautifully shaded, and the sidewalks are of cement.

The Carnegie library, built at a cost of \$10,000 stands at the head of Court street, an ornament to the city. It contains many volumes, selected with great care and excellent judgment by the library board.

The Emergency hospital, capable of accommodating sixty It is equipped with a well-equipped operating room, and has the appliances necessary to institutions of the kind.

The First National bank of Colorado City began business May 6, 1901. The management is in the hands of practical, conservative men,—men who have been successful in the management of their personal affairs. It has been the policy of the bank to maintain a strong cash reserve. Including the "warrants" the bank could pay its entire line of deposits off in a day. The bank pays a small rate of interest on deposits remaining six months or longer.

The Waycott opera house has a seating capacity of 800. It has a well appointed stage suitable for light drama, concerts and lectures.

An ice plant with a capacity of fifteen tons a day, which can be increased to thirty tons a day, is one of the well-patronized industries of Colorado City.

A club house costing \$18,000 built by the Standard Reduction Works is one of the favored institutions of the city. It is equipped with a reading room, bowling alley, billiards and baths. It has a membership of about 300 mill employees.

Bott's Park on the south side and Thorndale Park on the north, are the gifts of philanthropic citizens to the city. Both are beautiful plats of ground and have recently been planted with trees and shrubs and laid out in gravel walks. In two or three years, they will become popular resorts to the people of Colorado City.

Colorado City is like a house built upon a rock. The foundation for the permanent values of her real estate is solid. A city that has a payroll of such proportions, in addition to being situated in a region famous for health and pleasure, is a desirable place for tourist, capitalist and workmen alike. Is it any wonder that Colorado City is growing.

Those familiar with the immense natural advantages of Colorado City, with her vast beds of brick and fire clays, shales, sandstones, limestones, coal, gypsum, paint and glass materials, her natural gateway--Ute Pass-through the mountains to the rich mines and stock ranges of the state; her beautiful scenery, embracing all the charms of the Pike's Peak region, her nearness to the health-giving springs of Manitou--those who know these things, predict for the city a rapid development by the establishment of manufacturies that will in time place her second to none in the state.

CELEBRATE FOUNDERS' DAY Colorado City's 142nd Birthday Celebration

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2001

Crafts in Bancroft Park: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m

Bake Sale--Bancroft Cabin--8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Clover and Rachel Carroll--10:30 a.m. - noon

A delightful, highly talented country music duo

Michael Cortez, "The WindWalker", flute player--1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Nationally known Native American artist

and flute player, using

flutes made by David NightEagle

Both of these artists will have their CDs available for purchase

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2001
Crafts in Bancroft Park 11 a.m.- 4 p.m
Bake Sale--Bancroft Cabin--11 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Red Herring Players--11 a.m.-3 p.m
Actors dressed in period clothing will do skits and interact with the people in the Park
Merell Folsom & the Old Fashioned Square Dancers 2 p. m.-3 p.m.
Come and watch square dancing as done by the pioneers!

Old Fashioned big-wheel bicycle demonstration by Bill Chivvis Gold panning for children under 12

Crafts in Bancroft Park--every Saturday--8 a.m. - 3 p.m Over 40 talented crafts people displaying their wares every week Held as fund raisers for the Old Colorado City History Center Help support the Center by doing your gift and holiday shopping in the Park!

Food vendors: bratwurst, sodas, funnel cakes & ribbon fried potatoes, ice-cream and coffee

OUR PROGRAM YEAR IS STARTING MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 14, 2001: Program: Talk and slide program "The Santa Fe Trail" by Mary Humphreys

Time: 10:30 a.m. - noon Refreshments: 10:30-11:00 Program: 11 a.m. - noon

From the Bookstore

By: Agnes Johnson

Mr. Ivan W. Brunk, in his book, Pikes Peak Pioneers, presents a wealth of information and wonderful old photos from many sources as well as his own. His focus is on pioneers on the east side of Pikes Peak.

It is helpful to study the maps on pages 66 & 67 for they clearly define the area studied. The first shows Ruxton Creek and its tributaries, the latter is of Manitou. Included is an "Index of Settlement" beginning on September 2, 1865 and ending on October 27, 1896.

Also included is a list that names the individual settlers.

Because of their field of interest I chose Frederick E. Clements and his wife Edith to write about. Frederick was a professor of botany at the University of Nebraska. Edith also had a PhD. In the summer of 1899 they came to the Town of Minnehaha for a two-week vacation. They found the area excellent for research since there were many different climates and elevations.

The following year they bought a cabin, a two-room building, and it became the first home for the Alpine Laboratory. They struggled with a lack of money until in 1917 when they became sponsored by the Carnegie Institute of Washington. There was also substantial support and facilities from Colorado Collage.

World renound, leading scientists come from Europe as well as America to inspect the efforts of the Clements. Their work continued until the retirement of Frederic in 1941.

There are picture of the old cog train and an activity forbidden but enjoyed by young people.

The founding of Ruxton Park is covered on page 29. Mount Manitou incline, a wonderful tourist attraction is also mentioned. Alas it is no longer in existence.

From page 64 – until the end is a biography of the settlers.

The trials and vandalism suffered by Leslie Harris, a school teacher from Iowa makes you angry. But Oh how you admire her courage and tenacity.

Mr. Brunk's exhaustive research has made this book informative as well as interesting to read. A must – if you are interested in the lives of the early settlers of this area.

B030013313

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OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY