



Colorado City's Early Start With Aid of Squabbling Denverites

Newcomers to Colorado Springs are occasionally baffled by a reference to "Colorado City," usually in conversation with some older resident. That is not surprising, because it has been 40 years since the original town of Colorado City was annexed to Colorado Springs and became known as the "West Side." That is long enough for some rather interesting features of "Old Town" to have been largely forgotten.

Colorado City was the first town to be laid out and platted south of Denver, its first stake having been driven August 13, 1859. In the months immediately preceding, 26 residents of Denver, were then squabbling among themselves to see whether it would be called Auraria or Denver, formed the Colorado Town Co. On August 12, M.S. Beach and R.E. Cable left on horseback for the location on the banks of the Fontaine qui Bouille which had been decided upon. They camped the first night at the base of Castle Rock, and the next afternoon reached Camp Creek at present Adams Crossing. There they erected their sign, claiming two miles along the creek, and about a half-mile on each side.

About two hours later, another party of six men rode up and insisted that they had located the same ground a week earlier but since they had no visible evidence of doing so, were finally convinced that they had no rights, and moved on. They moved up to the vicinity of Roswell and founded a short-lived settlement, which they christened Red Rock City.

The boundaries of the Colorado City plat as filed in November were approximately from present 12th St. west to 32nd St., and from Colorado Ave. about seven blocks south and nine blocks north.

The location was chosen because it was at the gateway of the main southern route to the gold fields then being discovered all over the mountains west of Denver - Ute Pass. But for the first two months most of the traffic consisted of disappointed gold seekers heading home. Then about the middle of October the tide turned, and business was brisk for a time. At first, lots were offered free to anyone who would build on them, but on Oct. 27 Secretary Tappan served notice that no more free lots would be available since about 200 were said to be built or contracted for; all of them, of course, were rude log cabins.

A.Z. Sheldon, a surveyor who came here very soon, claimed there were 300 houses in the spring of 1860, and that was about the peak for a good many years. The Civil War practically cut off travel over the southern route, and Colorado City suffered as a consequence. It still, however, was the metropolis of the Pikes Peak Region proper, and a point touched by almost all travelers in this direction. Agricultural land was taken up for miles below the little settlement, and that became the mainstay of the economy, such as it was.

One of the prominent names in present day Colorado Springs is that of Howbert, and the first one of that name was the Rev. William Howbert. Rev. Mr. Howbert was a Methodist minister who left Iowa in the summer of 1860 to take a whirl at the mines, with two friends and his 14-year-old son, Irving, who became one of the most prominent and respected citizens of Colorado Springs. The minister was persuaded by the Rev. John M. Chivington, then presiding elder of the Rocky Mountain Conference, to take a charge embracing the mining areas of South

Park and extending down to the Fountain. He lived in the gold fields at first, at Montgomery, but in October, 1861, moved to Colorado City, and stated "the town presented a deserted appearance, many of the houses having been moved to farming claims on the Fountain, others were dilapidated or wrecked."

On a trip to Colorado City in the summer of 1860, Rev. Mr. Howbert and another minister saw a crowd at one end of Colorado Ave., the only street. Riding over, they found a trial by a "Peoples Court" in progress. A Mexican had been caught and accused of stealing horses, and after selection of a judge, prosecuting attorney and defending attorney, all selected from the crowd, the case was presented to the gathering. All those who believed him guilty and that he should be hanged were told to cross to the opposite side of the street. The ministers refrained from crossing and asked for an opportunity to hold a short service first, but was told that the matter at hand would be attended to first. Within 30 minutes of his conviction, the unfortunate Mexican was hanged at a tree, which stood in a gulch across Fountain Creek from the mouth of Camp Creek.

Colorado City led a precarious existence as the supply point for the Fountain Valley, plagued by Indian troubles, grasshoppers and hard times, until the coming of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad and the founding of the Colorado Springs in the summer of 1871. The first effect of Colorado Springs' birth was to throw Colorado City still farther into the dumps, especially when the county seat was moved to the newer town in 1873, but later, as Colorado Springs grew and prospered, so did Colorado City.

The establishment of the Colorado Midland railroad shops and headquarter in the late 80s was a powerful shot in the arm, and when it became the location of gold reduction mills for the booming Cripple Creek District in the early 90s, it was definitely established as the industrial center of the region. At one time, besides the railroad and mills, it had a paint factory and a large glass works, which made bottles for Manitou soda water.

Another contributing factor was that Colorado Springs, by edict of General Palmer, was a "dry town," and the thirsty inhabitants of "Little Lunnon" made the oasis in the west of them their Mecca, with consequent profit to the latter.

Finally, with the building up of both towns to the point where there was no distinguishable boundary, old Colorado City was annexed by its larger neighbor in 1916, and the old differences were erased. The old landmarks are gradually disappearing, and a page of early Colorado City history is closed.

Gazette Telegraph February 3, 1957

Editor's note:

Adams Crossing is located On Colorado Avenue at the present day sign for the Buffalo Lodge and the Garden of the Gods Camp-ground.

Old Colorado City Historical Society
1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

WEST WORD

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 THE OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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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



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From the Board of Directors OCCHS

Message from the New President of the Old Colorado City Historical Society

Welcome to our three new OCCHS Board members, Pat Fejedelem, Cynthia Estes, and Kristine Van Wert who were elected by acclamation at the May Meeting, as well as David Hughes who was reelected to the Board. At the Board meeting after the May annual meeting, the Executive Board, Beverly Disch, President, LaRue Ebersole, Vice-President, David Hughes, Treasurer, and Karla Hefferan, Secretary was elected.

Betsy Evans was appointed by the Board to fill the one-year position left by Gordon Gray's resignation from the Board. Betsy will chair the committee to sell the OCCS Walking Tour Book, which should be ready for sale around the first of June. Our annual budget includes many projected sales of our book. We are asking our members to buy it for themselves, friends and relatives. It would make a very nice gift as well as being quite useful to out of town guests.

The Arts and Craft Days in Bancroft Park each Saturday all summer has been well advertised by Jan and John Knox and Pat Wright. They have already had many crafters reserve space. Some crafters have even reserved spaces for the entire summer. We are anticipating this will be a good fundraiser for us.

At the annual Meeting kudos were given to Gordon Gray for the sterling job he has done as President during a time of transition. He will continue to help our History Center.

Thank you, Gordon

Our next General Meeting will be Friday, September 14, 2001. I wish you all a pleasant summer in the interval.

Bev Disch

May 5th, 2001

Our Society operates fiscally on a Calendar Year basis. So I will say how we did in 2000, and where we are headed by May of 2001.

The Spread Sheet of our Actual Performance for the year 2000 is available at the OCCHS center.

In brief we took in \$40,025 in revenues, and spent \$39,513 expenses, ending up \$512 profit in over what we had budgeted a year before. We ended the year with \$11,979 in the bank. Even without any large grants, your Board balanced the Budget and started this year on a sound financial basis.

Membership income held fairly steady, the B&B Tour, Cemetery Crawl, Santa's Photo produced good income, and Betsy Even's Book Store sold nearly \$7,000 in books and small items. Donations from general contributions, our annual appeal, and the Century Club helped a lot.

We filed our Income Tax forms in good order in 2000, with our books balanced.

The board approved a Budget for 2001 expecting \$49,353 in income, and expenses of \$43,634. If the year goes as planned, we will pull ahead by about \$6,700 this year, which will give us more breathing room to take care of things like building maintenance and other long term projects. The approved budget is available at the Center.

We started the year with an Endowment drawing interest to help our general maintenance costs of \$61,000. We hope the Planned Giving program that has been organized through the Colorado Springs Community Trust will encourage people in the community, and our members to help build that endowment up substantially. If we reach \$300,000 in our Endowment we can seriously look at being able to afford more staff.

So far, by April, 2001 we seem to be fairly on target, although a lot depends on how successful we are in selling at least 900 of the 3,000 Walking Tour Guide Books this year. As they were delivered later than expected we all need to get behind the sales so we can meet the \$5,000 goal by December.

We hope to net \$6,000 through an expanded summer Craft Fair series organized by Jan Knox, and there have been some generous gifts already this year.

Costs have gone up—such as utility bills, and we always have to look at building and grounds improvements and maintenance, but as your Treasurer, I think I can tell you we are on sound footing for another year.

Dave Hughes
Treasurer

West Side Memories

West Side Memories are transcribed by Jan Knox

One Hundred and Twenty-five Years Ago

June 1876

The beautiful Centennial cabinet, manufactured by Mr. Ege for Major McAllister, to be forwarded to the National Exposition, as a specimen of Colorado workmanship and native woods, and for the display of mineral specimens and petrifications, is now on exhibition at the drug store of T. H. Burnham. 6/10 C.S. Gazette

An intelligent gentleman who lives on the East river, in Lake county, who came to this city one day last week by the Ute Pass road, informed us that in the day's journey between South Park and this city, he counted fifty-two teams heavily laden with merchandise and supplies for the mining camps and ranches. 6/10 C.S. Gazette

We are informed that the Templeton Brothers' Pike's Peak pony stable, at Manitou, with ponies accustomed to mountain climbing, already find employment for all their ponies in the conveyance of mountain travelers, and find it necessary to increase their stock. 6/10 C.S. Gazette

Our County Clerk, Mr. Irving Howbert, with a party of six others, from Colorado Springs, is now doing the Centennial. He stops at a private boarding house, No. 1, 417, Locust Street, Philadelphia. 6/17 C.S. Gazette

Mssrs. J. R. Wheeler & Son are bringing in their flocks of sheep from their ranges in the country for the purpose of shearing near town. Persons interested in this branch of Colorado industry, lovers of fine sheep, and others desirous of witnessing the operation of sheep shearing on an extended scale, may find an opportunity of so doing by visiting their grounds on the eastern limits of the city and just north of the reservoirs. 6/17 C.S. Gazette

The hotel in Manitou Park (now Woodland Park-jk) is now open for the reception of guests. The house has been refitted, and the livery stock largely added to. The vegetable garden and poultry yard have greatly increased the resources of the hotel table. The trout establishment has been greatly added to, and shows a magnificent display of fish. In short, everything promises to make a trip to the Park thoroughly enjoyable. Applications for rooms, or conveyances made to Chas. Cavender, Manitou post office, will receive prompt attention. 6/17 C.S. Gazette

A rifle match that has been talked of for the last few days between John Potter and Charles Stockbridge came off on Thursday morning at the Colorado Springs rifle butts.

Charles Stockbridge came out the winner by five points. The scores were 43 and 38 out of a possible 50; distance 300 yards. 6/24 C.S. Gazette

At the request of many citizens, Major McAllister will give an account of the scenes and incidents at Cincinnati, during the late Republican Convention proceedings of the most interesting and extraordinary Convention that ever assembled in the United States, at Unity Hall, this evening, June 24th, at half-past eight o'clock. Admission free. 6/24 C.S. Gazette

One Hundred Years Ago

June 1901

Rehearsals of the new Colorado City band are held every Tuesday and Friday night and the musicians are progressing rapidly. Some additions have been made to the band since its organization and it numbers about twenty pieces. The practice last night was one of the best yet held and those who considered the organization of a band unwise are beginning to regard it with favor. The Fourth of July committee of the chamber of commerce has given the new organization \$75 for its services on the fourth and with this money the band will buy music and other equipment. It is the intention to maintain the band all through the summer and it is thought that a number of engagements may be secured where some one wants an inexpensive aggregation to furnish music. 6/1 C.S. Gazette

H. D. L. Morse, ex-mayor of Colorado City, was seriously injured in a runaway in Colorado Springs Thursday. He was thrown from his buggy while driving in the cemetery and sustained many severe bruises although he was not dangerously injured. He was brought to his home on the Boulevard in this city by friends and is now resting as easily as could be expected. Mr. Morse decided to drive to the cemetery despite the rain and mud. While going under the railway bridge at Costilla street his horse became frightened at some stock which were running loose in a pasture and ran away. The buggy was upset and Mr. Morse was thrown to the ground with considerable force. Besides the injuries received by Mr. Morse, the horse was badly cut and the buggy was wrecked. 6/1 C.S. Gazette

Colorado City will have a merry-go-round in a couple of weeks. W. A. Tatum, who owns one of the steam riding galleries was in the city yesterday to make arrangements to bring his machine here and he succeeded in making all the necessary arrangements as to license, location, etc., in a satisfactory manner. The merry-go-round will be put up on the corner of Eighth and Colorado avenues and will probably be here by June 15. The machine is now doing business in Pueblo but Mr. Tatum desires to move it to a place, which is more of a resort for tourists. Later in the summer, he may remove it to Mani-

West Side Memories

tu. The machine is one of late pattern and has been from the factory but a few weeks. It is run by steam and will furnish considerable amusement for every one. 6/1 C.S. Gazette

The new cog road engine has arrived in Colorado Springs and will be brought over to Manitou on the Colorado Midland tracks. It will be unloaded at the Iron Springs station of the Midland and will be taken from there to the cog road tracks on a temporary track constructed for the purpose. It has been the custom in the past to take the cog engines from the Denver & Rio Grande company's tracks, but owing to the fact that this season of the year is a busy one for the Rapid Transit Company it would delay the cars too much to haul the engine over the high line. The engine cannot run on a track which is not provided with the rack rail and it was necessary to haul it up to the cog depot by means of a block and tackle. The new engine is modern in every respect and is a great addition to the equipment of the road. 6/5 C. S. Gazette

It will be just four weeks before the new Antlers hotel will be opened to the public, and already many of the hundreds of rooms in the big structure are being furnished. With the past three or four days, twelve carloads of furniture for the hostelry have arrived in this city from the east, and most of this freight has been distributed throughout the building. Carpets have been laid in nearly all of the 210 guest rooms on the four upper floors during the past week. These rooms have all been papered, and in many of them the furnishings will be complete in two or three days. The decorators are still at work in the lower part of the hotel, but everything will be "spick and span" when the formal opening takes place on the second or third of July. The finishing touches to the hotel are being completed rapidly. The wiring for the electric lighting and telephone systems is all in, chandeliers have been installed and the plumbing is finished. Awnings are being placed over the windows, and from the outside the structure appears to be completed. It will not be long before all the evidences of the work of construction will disappear from the ground around the hotel. The last places to be furnished will be the offices, dining room, cafe, ballroom and other apartments on the lower floors. The decorations here are to be elaborate. Already these rooms are taking on an appearance of beauty under the decorators' brushes. 6/5 C. S. Gazette

J. G. Faulkner is in trouble. He has money but he cannot use it. There have been a number of burglaries in the city during the past six months and Mr. Faulkner did not intend to be one of the victims. He changed the combination on his safe and then changed his mind about using the new combination. When the circus came along, he decided to use the safe and put his money in it and locked it up, forgetting that he had changed the combination and did not remember it. The next morning after the circus, he came to his store and started to unlock his safe. He worked for hours. He perspired; but all to no avail. The safe was locked for all time and the money was indeed safe. Now the question is: how is he going to get

into the safe? He thought that the best way would be to drill a hole in the door and blow it open with dynamite, but after consultation he saw that not only would this wreck the safe and make it unfit for use, but it might fail to open the door. So he has decided to break off the combination dial and knock the combination in. If he does not do this, he will hire a burglar to open it. A new lock will cost \$4, which Mr. Faulkner thinks is rather a high interest for keeping money but a few days. 6/7 C. S. Gazette

Superintendent Ridgway, of the "Short Line," who went to St. Louis several days ago with the intention of purchasing three new passenger coaches for the road, returned yesterday without having fulfilled his mission. The American Car & Foundry Company, from which it was intended to buy the cars, is so busy that it is impossible for the plant to build coaches of the quality required by the "Short Line" immediately. Until some other arrangements are made, the line will have to use the cars of other roads, as well as its own, to accommodate the heavy traffic. Thus far the summer excursion business has been greater than was expected. 6/7 C. S. Gazette

Great preparations are being made for Colorado City's grand Fourth of July celebration and it promises to eclipse every celebration of the year in this section of the country with the exception of the Quarto-Centennial, which Colorado Springs will give August 1, 2 and 3. The different committees which have been appointed to look after the details of the celebration have been working steadily and promise a good time for every one of the Fourth if they are in Colorado City. Lieutenant Governor D. C. Coates, of Denver, has been asked to make the address of the day and has responded, saying that he would consider it an honor to do so. A grand stand will be erected in front of the Bancroft school and the address will be delivered from this stand. The committee on a speaker is N. B. Hames and C. M. Sherman. W. P. Epperson, chairman of the committee on refreshments, promises plenty of "grub" for the visitors. Each visitor will be given a neatly prepared package containing Saratoga chips, sandwiches and other steiles of food, which will taste good to a hungry multitude. There will be 10,000 of these packages, besides 600 gallons of lemonade and an equal amount of coffee. Everything will be free on the Fourth—fireworks, lunch, speaking athletic sports. It will not cost any one a cent to have a good time after they arrive in Colorado City. The order of the parade has not been determined as yet, but it will be held about 10:30 in the forenoon. The speaking will be about noon and the afternoon will be given over to athletic sports of various kinds. In the evening there will be fireworks in plenty. The finance committee has raised almost \$1,000 with which to pay the expenses of the celebration. The last time Colorado City celebrated she only had \$600 with which to do it with and at that time nobody failed to have a good time. This year the celebration will be larger, longer, more complete and interesting than every before and no one can afford to miss it. 6/9 C. S. Gazette

From the Bookstore

By: Agnes Johnson

"A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains"

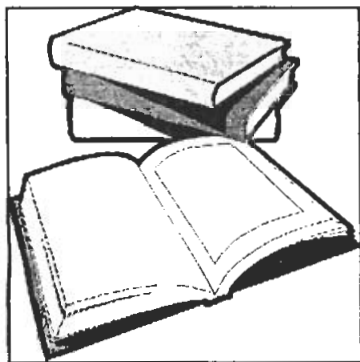
By Isabella L. Bird

Why I had not read this book long before this, I will never know.

She is one of the most fascinating women with an amazing courage and fortitude, I have ever read about. I refer to the letters written to her sister, Henrietta, by Isabelle L. Bird, describing her travels on her Rocky Mountain Tour during the autumn and early winter of 1873 on her way back to England from the Hawaiian Islands.

These letters are assembled in a book titled, "A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains".

In the introduction of the book written by Daniel J. Boorstin, I discovered that later her travels would take her to India and Tibet, China and Korea, and to help relocate the people in West Highlands of Scotland so they could immigrate to Canada.



She established hospitals in Kashmir, Nazareth, Punjab, and 3 more in China and Korea.

This from a woman who was suffering from a spinal complication and told a sea voyage was recommended!

She writes wonderful descriptions of the plains and mountains. Her character's personalities, habits, and thoughts come alive with her perceptiveness. I'm particularly fond of her description of "Mountain Jim", and her dog "Reny".

Her unusual vocabulary of the skies and sounds of night is best illustrated by her "shivering stars looking through the canopy."

Her ascent of Long's Peak with the aid of Jim is truly amazing and filled with humor and pathos.

For 600 miles on her trusted Bronco, with a Mexican saddle, she covered the Rocky Mountains through storms, bitter cold, heat and hunger.

Mostly alone, her spirit and inventiveness is a marvel to read.

There are many excellent books in the OCCS book store. Please drop by and pick up one or two. They will give you a greater insight to the early days of the Rocky Mountain Region as well as the history of Colorado, and more particularly Old Colorado City. While you are there grab a copy of, In and Around Old Colorado City a Walking Tour. Members in good standing receive a 10% discount.

Folks that have come to visit us and say "Howdy".

We have had a lot of visitors from around the country, as well as foreign travelers. Since January first visitors from the following states and countries have signed the guest book. Pretty impressive.

Missouri	Nebraska	New Mexico	Illinois	Texas	Alaska	New York
Minnesota	California	Wisconsin	Pennsylvania	Arizona	Indiana	Colorado
			And			
Canada	Germany	Ireland	Hungary	China	France	

Submitted by Leland Feitz

OCCHS Arts & CRAFTS in the Park

Every Saturday beginning June 23rd through October 6th....plus Sunday, August 12th

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

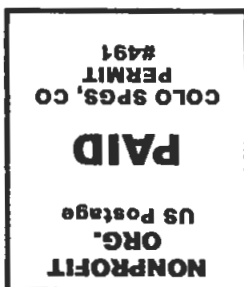
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