



The Flower Excursion — Colorado City Style

In the late 1800's, the ladies and gentlemen of cultured, wealthy Colorado Springs started a new tradition worthy of the fashions of long settled cities on the Eastern shore. It was called the Flower Parade. Carriages were decorated with spring flowers, ladies carried flowered parasols, and parades resembled the Easter Parades of New York. All posh, with ladies wearing costly dresses purchased just for the occasion.

Soon the idea spread to the idea of taking a Midland Railroad 'Flower Excursion' up Ute Pass in the early summer when many flowers were in bloom in the very short mountain growing season. At a particular point at Idlewild, or down 11 Mile Canyon, the train would stop, photos would be taken from a promontory, and elaborate picnic lunches would be laid out.

Well, next to fancy Colorado Springs, lay workingman's Colorado City, many of whose men folk worked in the Midland years, and carried lunch buckets. Sometime after 1900, Colorado City folk, while neither rich or fashionable, figured if the people of Colorado Springs could have a Flower Excursion in the glorious spring, they could have one in the late, hot, and flowerless fall.

The picture above shows fully 480 Colorado City men, women, and children on one of their excursions. The original photograph is clearly marked 'Colorado City Day, August 12, 1914.' The significance of that date is the anniversary of the founding of Colorado City! It was one year after the infamous vote by Colorado City to go 'dry' and three years before the bitter election of 1917 when Colorado City dissolved itself and became the new

'Westside' of Colorado Springs.

The picture is a fascinating study of the faces, dress, and demeanor of a cross section of the people of Colorado City. While the original photograph is small, there is a framed enlargement that hangs on the wall of the History Center library. You can spend hours, as I have, with a magnifying glass studying those 480 faces. There are mothers and fathers, children, gawky teenagers, old timers, the nicely dressed and the not so well dressed. Some are holding paper bags for their lunches instead of picnic baskets.

Some of the old bearded men in the picture could well have been among Colorado City's earliest pioneers—for the Excursion pictured here took place only 55 years after the

founding of the pioneer town. The Midland train itself is remarkable because with such a large passenger load, the line had to add a much older, flat topped, observation car which is clearly visible among the more traditional cars.

Of course, as any Colorado resident knows, August is not the time to see flowers except in the most highest alpine meadows. So while the original Flower Excursions of Colorado Springs inspired the Colorado City excursions when the flowers were scarce, it is a treat to see such a



Colorado City Day—August 12, 1914

OCCHS—Hughes Collection 999-060

large part of the hard working folds of Colorado City taking a small community holiday and by doing so leaves to us this wonderful photographic legacy of what the people looked like over 87 years ago.

FROM THE BOARD

2001 Operating Budget—Approved by the Board—February 5, 2001

CASH BALANCE IN CD INTEREST ACCOUNT	\$	385	
CASH IN GENERAL ACCOUNT			12/31/00 10,369
CASH IN BOOKSTORE ACCOUNT			12/31/00 401
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS			11,155
PROJECTED INCOME 2001			
CD Interest Earned		4,011	
Contributions, bricks	500		
General contributions	7,500		
Adopt-a-book	500		
Grants	150		
Tours	200		
Memberships	4,000		
Interest on savings account	180		
Territory Days	1,200		
Craft Fairs	6,640		
Cemetery Crawl	1,000		
Bake Sales	400		
Book/gift store	7,500		
Guide book sales	6,150		
State reimbursement of guide book	4,522		
Darkroom sales	300		
Research	100		
Services and rental	1,500		
B&B Projected gift	2,000		
Santa Pictures	1,000		
Gross Revenue		49,353	
COST OF SALES			
Territory Days	250		
Cemetery Crawl	250		
Craft Fairs	2,000		
Bed & Breakfast	300		
Santa Pictures	250		
Book Store Purchases	3,375		
Guide Book	4,971		
Total Cost of Sales		11,396	
Gross Profit		37,957	
PROJECT AND BUILDING EXPENSES			
Brick Engraving			90
Insurance			1,748
Maintenance and repair			4,000
Security			504
Improvements (building)			1,000
Telephone			600
Utilities			2,700
Computer costs			1,000
Lease copier			1,838
Archival supplies			5,000
Complete exhibits			1,000
Darkroom			100
Militia Display			549
Total Project and Building Costs			20,129
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Accounting			250
Bank Charges			518
Dues and subscriptions			30
Licenses, fees, sales tax			310
Curator			7,900
Office supplies			1,500
Postage & freight			800
Newsletter			0
Other printing			300
Speakers fees and lunch			250
Miscellaneous			250
Total Operating Expenses			12,108
TOTAL PROJECTED NET PROFIT			
			\$ 5,720

The final report on the 2000 financial statement (actual vs budget) will be presented in the next West Word

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

From the guest book in the History Center...

June 11, 2000—s/Tamara M. Teale, Colorado Springs.

"I have lived in town for 40+ years. I've traveled in Europe, gone to universities in England where they are experts in preservation and historical reconstruction.

This museum is a joy!!."

February 2, 2001

Word has been received that Virginia Cox, a Charter Member of OCCHS, was in a car accident recently. She is residing at 1686 S. 8th Street in Colorado Springs. Her phone number is 719-635-8705. She would welcome your notes, calls, and visits.

February 28, 2001

Word was received of the recent death of Flora Bell Hull, also a Charter Member of OCCHS. No other details were available at press time.

February 28, 2001—FLASH!!!

Our new book, *"In & Around Old Colorado City"*

The final copy is at the printer and we will have the books in five weeks. Be sure to reserve your copy NOW! It is an excellent publication and one that you will want to have in your library, as well as, give as gifts. The book is \$9.95 plus tax. (shipping/handling also for mail orders) Call the Center to place your order or to reserve your copy.

WESTSIDE COALITION FORMED

Organization of Westside Neighbors, the Old Colorado City Historical Society and the revived West Colorado Springs Commercial Club have recently formed the WestSide Coalition (WSC) to speak with one voice about matters affecting the greater Westside. The UCCS Center for Community Design has also been invited to join.

The newly formed WSC has asked the city to update, in consultation with Westsiders, the 1978 ordinance known as the master 'Westside Plan' to reflect pending issues brought by growth to the area. New issues include the possible housing developments on Gold Hill Mesa and the proposed annexation of the Red Rock Canyon property to the west side of the city. Other efforts in progress include a sign ordinance and SCIP recommended lighting for West Colorado Avenue, state tax relief programs for historical preservation, the Trolley, and plans to upgrade the Fountain Creek and Midland Corridor areas. The Coalition also seeks to continue the historic preservation efforts started over 20 years ago which are reflected in 'The Westside Plan.'

Any Westsider may obtain and read, on premises, a copy of the 'Westside Plan' at the Old Colorado City History Center. All Westsiders represented by WSC member organizations are invited to attend upcoming WSC meetings. For more information, please contact Dave Hughes at 719-636-2040.

100 Years Ago

- The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47.
- There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S. and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- The average wage in the U.S. was twenty-two cents per hour. The average worker made between \$200 and \$300 per year.
- Only 8% of the homes had a telephone. A three minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.
- More than 95% of all births in the U.S. took place at home.
- Most women washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska had not been admitted to the Union yet.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was thirty.
- Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- One in ten U.S. adults couldn't read or write.
- Only 6% of all Americans had graduated from high school.
- Eighteen percent of all households in the U.S. had at least one full-time servant or domestic.
- There were about 230 reported murders in the U.S. each year.
- Only 14% of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.
- Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the twenty-first most populous state in the Union.
- A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1500 and \$4000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5000 per year.
- Plutonium, insulin, and antibiotics had not been discovered yet. Scotch tape, crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea had not been invented.

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

Source: Internet article February 6, 2001

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

ANCIENT DATES CARVED IN GARDEN OF THE GODS ROCKS *Annual Issue, Colorado Springs Gazette* March 7, 1926

The great Garden of the Gods rocks were used as registration tablets by the pioneers who were first to arrive in the Pikes Peak region, and the practice has been continued ever since. The kissing camels must have smiled to see the pygmy bipeds cutting letters in the soft stone so far below that they looked no larger than flies. But time has passed and beyond the shadow of graves these carvings have remained as when they were made, except that wind and frost have rendered the incisions in shallower intaglio and smoothed and rounded off the sharp edges.

Wave upon wave of later comers and countless breakers of tourists on the shores of this one-time seacoast, have since inscribed their initials, their names, their true lovers' hearts, Indian heads, marks, signs, greetings, goodbys, till now on some of the rocks, there is not a square inch of carving space left, as high as the hand can reach, even with hanging on by the eyebrows.

The slab of white rock which rises like a knife edge north of the huge gateway rocks is a solid piece of carving for hundreds of feet back from the road on both sides. The dates 1860, '79, etc., are mingled with the '24, '25 and 26s. On one of the gateway rocks itself is an 1860. Some say that initials appear over the date 1859 in places, but G. Hennenhofer, city park superintendent, says that so far he has looked in vain for one of these.

NO INDIAN MARKINGS

A peculiar thing about it all is that there seem to be no Indian markings. Indians camped in the Garden of the Gods and trailed through there for hundreds of years before the white man came. This much is known. And yet it seems they were never moved to put their marks upon the rocks. Was it that they lacked sharp knives to do it with? Or why was it?

At other places in the state are seen their wall writings, their crude maps, their historical passages, on the stone. But on these awe-inspiring slabs of sandstone, which almost touch the sky, there appear to be no Indian marks of any kind.

Still, they may be there. In such a conglomeration of writing, such a voluminous scroll, without volume or page designations, reading up and down, cross and slantwise, sandwiched in, interlaced, telescoped and laid one upon another, it is difficult to tell what a person might find if he took the time to study it. Were it Robinson Crusoe's island, Crusoe would find a good year's reading at hand.

There are undoubtedly in the arabesque of letters and figures, the names of many a famous man and beautiful woman, the names of many a builder of the western empire, the signature of many a one who has carved for himself or herself fame in a world more plastic than this gritty wall of stone. There it

stands, an enormous book of many pages for him to read who can. And it's in English, and most of it is legible. The very volume of it is what would dishearten the student of research. Some day it may be translated into printers ink on white paper, this very interesting old-new registration book in the Garden of the Gods.

(NOTE: the History Center book shop has the book for sale, "Man in the Garden of the Gods" by Richard and Mary Ann Gehling-jan)

WEST COLORADO SPRINGS Past Year Responsible for Many Improvements *Annual Issue, Colorado Springs Gazette* March 7, 1926

Includes Development of West Side Junior High
Athletic Grounds;
New Garden of Gods Road;
New Bancroft Park;
Two Reservoirs Are Planned for Near Future

West Colorado Springs, the Industrial center of the Pikes Peak region and the front door to many of the scenic beauty spots, is a thriving, growing community. The year 1925 showed many results not only in the way of new and remodeled homes and real estate improvement, but in civic projects as well. Outstanding among these were the development of the West Side Junior High school grounds, the purchase of athletic equipment by the Parent-Teacher association, the acquisition by the city of the Bancroft school grounds which are to be transformed into a community park center, and the opening of the new approach to the Garden of the Gods through Lennon park by way of Adams crossing.

This alone will attract thousands of motorists.

The program for this year and next includes the reservoir construction projects north of the city limits off Twenty-fourth and Sixteenth streets.

A. M. Wilson, city manager, has already announced the purchase of sites for both reservoirs to be constructed at a cost of about \$18,000 each. They will be built so as to impound the drainage waters during flood periods and hold them until the storm sewers can absorb the overflow. Their completion will mark an important step in the progress of the municipal improvement on the west side. F. O. Ray, city engineer, is drawing the plans and specifications.

Last year the post office showed a 25 percent increase in business since 1918 and activities in 1925 kept up similarly. Another project to be completed in 1925 was that of the new light and power plant at the Golden Cycle mill.

Through "Old Town" are the entrances to such important scenic beauty spots as the Corley Mountain highway, the Crystal park drive, High drive, etc., not forgetting the Garden of the Gods and Manitou—with a paved boulevard running clear from Colorado Springs to the foothills and up into Ute Pass,

(continued on page 6)

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

(continued from page 5)

which is a splendid hard-surfaced highway--ideal for motor-ing.

Another municipal improvement is that of switching the west side over from the old lines to the new on the light and power system which result it is believed is marked improvement in service.

With its new homes, comparatively new Catholic church, the Junior high school, completed in 1925, and other buildings, West Colorado Springs is rapidly coming to the front. Some of the finest homes in the city front on the paved boulevard, while others are just off the main street on shaded roads north and south.

Another phase of activity in which all of West Colorado Springs excels is that of maintaining camp grounds of all kinds and description. They are springing up like mushrooms and include just plain "tent cities" as well as cottage grounds while others provide the shaded nooks necessary and you furnish the car and the camp. These not only exist on the west side, but overflow into the surrounding territory, until their name is legion.

SUNSHINE TO FOLLOW IN WAKE OF THE STORM

Colorado Springs Gazette

April 12, 1901

The storm which wrought havoc in this section of Colorado Wednesday night and yesterday morning, gave weak evidences of a continuance last night, but according to the National Weather bureau, fair weather is in store for Colorado Springs today and tomorrow. The railroads have cleared their tracks here and traffic in Colorado Springs, which was greatly hampered by the storm, is restored to its normal condition.

Slush and snow nearly two feet deep were the evidence people in this city had yesterday of the severity of the storm. The wet snow was heavy and men were kept busy all over town shoveling it off roofs to prevent leaks and breakdowns.

The railroads suffered most. Between here and Denver, the drifts were deepest near Palmer Lake, and the morning Rio Grande trains were delayed for hours between that place and Husted. Evening trains were blocked or abandoned. The Santa Fe trains were delayed at Sedalia. By afternoon, the north and south lines were open. Snow plows and work trains turned the trick.

One the new Short Line, no trains were run from Wednesday evening until 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The passenger train leaving Colorado Springs for Cripple Creek at 4:05 o'clock was the first over the line after the storm. The new line was handicapped by lack of equipment for handling the snow. The snow was said to be ten feet deep in some of the cuts.

For the second time in its history, the clock in the High School building was stopped. The snow drifted against the faces and stopped the hands. The other time it stopped was during the big wind storm of last November.

Articles transcribed by: Jan Knox

MEMOIRS OF LUTHER MCKNIGHT

P.P. Cog R.R. 1979— Memoirs Luther McKnight, photoghr at Mountain View Section house (P.P. NEWS.HOUSE) 1925. The first engine #4 is in Ruxton Creek @ Shady Spring. Lee Jamison's engine failed near summit. It darted down hill. Lee set the brakes and jumped. He landed sitting on sharp rocks. The engine slowed. Lee climbed to the cab and completed the stop. The brakeman stopped the coach with hand brakes, and chained a wheel to the rails. Another engine broke a con rod and jumped wildly. A stand-by engine rushed to the rescue. One elderly couple walked down to Manitou. They would not get back on the ill-fated train. Tom Wilson (Orrie's father-in-law) was delivering the P.P. News by tobogan when he hit a rock left on the rail by a sid-ing hiker. The spill was nearly fatal. I built a tobogan concealed in a camera case.

Rocks on the summit are separated by ice. A building that melts the ice will settle. The tower sometimes glows with St. Elmo's fire and sparks fly from my finger tips. (it tingles). This static travels down the cog tracks to damp surface soil. Some times a fire ball rolls along a rail. (quite shocking) Trains are dispatched by phone. A third wire is Western Union. These wires are not bothered by lightning too much because the tracks drain off the discharges. The phone line along the auto highway has no such protection, so the upper miles have serious lightning problems.

South of Minne-ha-ha, approaching Cameron's Cone, are fields of crystals. Elsewhere the cog roadbed has few minerals. This is in contrast with the Auto Highway which has prospector's holes and fields of outstanding crystal. Alpine flowers abound along both routes. The site of the out house near the top of Barr trail has been taken over by alpine flowers. Alpine Lab'ry transplanted flowers at all altitudes along cog rd.

Cog rd has a perfect passenger safety record. In 1919 an auto passenger was struck by lightning on the summit.

Trains left Manitou at 9am and 1pm. Each had 1 to 5 sections, spaced 5 minutes. Special trains on demand. A sunrise train, all Negro, was a hilarious party.

Climbing Cog Road, often by moonlight, was popular until 1926. Snack bars were at Shady Spg. And 4 other places. Pennants "I Climbed Pikes Peak" cost 25cents at the summit.

LMcK has gone up on the snow plow, in engine cab, on front platform, by diesel, and on foot.

Summit lites were gasoline thru hollow wire. The old spot light was electric.

Note: The above is an exact transcription of the original memoir by Luther McKnight.

It was found in the artifacts of the newly created Lester Williams Fire Museum.

A copy was given to Gordon Gray by Ray Turner, President of the Friends of the Lester Williams Fire Museum. OCCHS thanks Mr. Turner for this information.

Gordon Gray

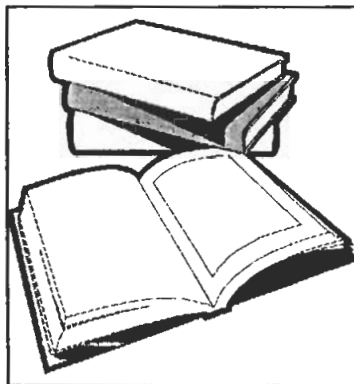
From the Bookstore

By: Agnes Johnson

I am so impressed with the book that Betsy Evans recommended. It's title is "Through the Eyes of the Children." It was the recipient of the Colorado Book Award.

It was written by grades one through five at TOPE Elementary School in Grand Junction, Colorado. The photos are the work of Diane Herschinger Gallegos.

Basically written by children for children, adults will find it informative, thorough in the research, and a delight to read.



The book is a field guide on Colorado and the Colorado Plateau. It covers the Four Corners area, and a map on the back of the front cover depicts the rivers, cities, National Monuments, National Parks, where they did their study and fault-finding.

A unique device for separating subjects by using different color bars at the top of each page is very clever. The sections include geology/history, archeology, life zones, wild flowers, grasses, trees, butterflies/insects, spiders, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals and pictures of the children in their classes as well as their teachers.

The really marvelous thing about this spiral bound book is the simplicity of their message. Each picture on a page identifies the location, and a short explanation. A number of the pictures show a child or children at the site.

The colored photos and all the other pictures are close ups. They selected flowers that are most familiar in the various life zones to depict. They use common names rather than botanical names. Their explanations are short, but give a lot of information. The flowers are classified by their color—each color separated by the color bar.

The photos of grasses are some of the best I've seen. This book is so helpful because the photos are so detailed that it makes their usually difficult identification much easier. There is a good elucidation distinguishing purple asters from daisies.

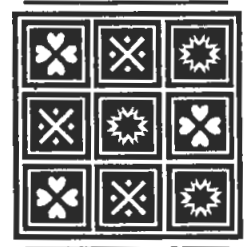
This reference book would be easy to carry along—it is not huge and the spiral binding helps—on your hikes or walks—then you would know exactly what you were seeing.

I think the children, Mrs. Gallegos, and the teachers did an outstanding job. What a learning project for those young people. To me, this is what education is all about and not just studying for the CSAP. (Just a retired teacher's point of view and not speaking for the West Word or the Society.)

This would make an excellent gift for your hiking or walking friends or for yourself, and it is fun to read.

OCCHS March Program Friday, March 9, 2001

The February meeting was cancelled due to the weather. This program was to be presented by Lois Jackson and she has agreed to be at our March meeting. Ms. Jackson teaches quilting and will present a program entitled, "Family Quilts."



This presentation will be very interesting and informative. Please make your plans now to attend. The meeting will be at the History Center. The social hour and refreshments will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the program at 11 a.m.

March Meeting Luncheon

REMINDER -REMINDER - REMINDER

Arrangements have been made again in March with the Front Range Barbeque Restaurant for lunch after the March OCCHS monthly meeting. The restaurant is located across the parking lot from the History Center. A sample platter/drink will be \$6 plus tax.

If you are interested in joining us for lunch after the program, please let Karla Hefferan know by Tuesday, March 6th. You can contact Karla at 630-8241.

The lunch has been set up by Karla in response to input from our recent membership questionnaire. Many members expressed the desire to have lunch after the monthly meeting. If it is well received, we will make plans to continue the lunches each month.

Welcome — New Members

Please welcome the following as new members to OCCHS.
We are pleased they have joined our Society.

Two Sisters Inn
Ten Otoe Place
Manitou Springs, CO 80829
719-685-9684

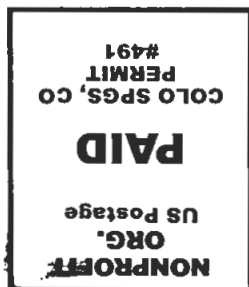
Ronald and Judith Lancaster
Spring Cottage
113 Pawnee Avenue
Manitou Springs, CO 80829
719-685-9395

Lori Lane Duke
Chalice House Bed & Breakfast
1116 North Wahsatch
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719-475-7505

Jo Cervone
2920 Rhapsody Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
719-266-9096

Schedule of Events

- March 9—OCCHS monthly meeting at the History Center.
10 a.m. Refreshments
11 a.m. Lois Jackson- *Family Quilts*
Noon—Lunch at the Front Range Barbeque
- April 13—OCCHS monthly meeting at the History Center
10 a.m. Refreshments
11 a.m. Celinda Reynolds Kaelin - *The Ute Indians*
- May 11—Annual OCCHS meeting at the History Center
10:00 a.m. Refreshments
11:00 a.m. Business Meeting
- May ? - Cathleen Norman's presentation on the new Walking Tour Book.



OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ONE SOUTH TWENTY-FOURTH STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904-3319