

WEST



WORD

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 4

May 2001

When Colorado City went dry, Ramona was born to be wild

The little town of Ramona, an enclave in what is now part of Colorado Springs's West Side, was formed years ago with only one purpose in mind — drinking.

When Colorado City went dry in the spring of 1913, saloon keepers decided to outwit town officials. They would form their own town and call it Ramona. The town would be wet.

The saloon keepers pooled their funds and bought \$20,000 worth of land from Frank Wolff along 24th Street, a few blocks north of Colorado Avenue. Saloons soon sprung up on the property, near present-day Thorndale Park.

On August 21, 1913, an election was held to decide whether the area would be incorporated. All 37 votes cast were in favor of incorporation.

Robert McReynolds was named city clerk, city treasurer and police magistrate, with a salary of \$25 a month.

L.C. Moats was the chief of police, the city marshal, city detective and jailer. He earned \$65 a month. At first the jail was merely a small-sized tent.

Saloons became the business in Ramona. But gambling and prostitution also thrive, as did prize fighting.

Just about everybody in Ramona had some connection to the drinking business, including May George Geiger, who had a the biggest saloon in town — the Heidelberg.

Colorado Springs and Colorado City, both of which had outlawed liquor, were outraged with the goings-ons in the tiny town with the picturesque name. Colorado City tried to annex Ramona in order to put a stop to it all, but was unsuccessful.

Then Colorado Springs officials came up with a plan. The city controlled the area's water supply and officials decided to not furnish water to Ramona's saloons. Only individual residences would get water. Early in 1914, Colorado Springs put their plan into action by refusing to renew water permits for the saloons.

The saloon keepers were irate. The matter was taken to court, where a district judge ruled that Colorado

Springs did not have to sell water to the Ramona saloons.

However, the Ramona merchants got around the ruling by tapping a Colorado Springs fire hydrant at night and piping water through a fire hose to a big portable water tank.

The town soon earned the name "Whiskeyville."

The Ramona Athletic Club held prize fights, first in a tent then in a building. Often, the fights developed into free-for-all slug fests among the spectators.

Colorado Springs, however, finally prevailed. The city led the fight for a measure that would legally prohibit alcohol throughout the state. The measure passed in 1916 and Ramona's saloons were put out of business.

The town survived as best it could — even though most of its economic base evaporated.

In 1922, the town proposed a tax on bachelors. The \$25 tax was "to be paid to any old maids the town may claim", according to an article in the Colorado Springs Gazette. However, there is not further news on whether the tax was really imposed.

By this time, the town treasury had dwindled to a mere \$100 and residents talked about the town being dissolved.

Ramona residents complained that the town government was unable to provide police protection or maintain public health standards. But it wasn't until 1947 that the town, by a 46-4 vote, decided to end its incorporation and come under El Paso County's jurisdiction.

In 1956, the area bounded by Wolff Place on the north, St. Vrain Street on the south, 23rd Street on the east, and 26th Street on the west, was annexed into the City of Colorado Springs.

(Article by: Deborah Belgum, Gazette Telegraph, Colorado Springs, publication date unknown)

Candidates for the OCCHS Board of Directors

The following persons have agreed to have their names placed into nomination for the OCCHS Board of Directors. Four Board members will be elected at the May Annual Meeting on May 11th. These positions are for a two-year period. Additional names may be placed into nomination at the meeting. The nominee must be a member in good standing of OCCHS. Only members who are current with their membership dues will be eligible to vote.

Cynthia Estes

Since her retirement in 1988 after 31 years in education (most of them as a high school counselor), Cyndy has enjoyed pursuing a variety of interests both old and new. She is active in AAUW (American Association of University Women), Symphony Guild, Food-for-Thought Gatherings, World Affairs Council, and the International Visitors program. She has just begun serving a second term on the Advisory Board of the Pikes Peak Center.

Upon moving to the Westside in 1995, Cyndy joined OCCHS and she has been involved in photo accessions, special events such as Territory Days and the holiday B&B Tour, and bookstore operations.

In addition to community activities, she finds time for reading, bridge, music, art, theater, travel, hiking, and entertaining. She thinks "retirement" fails to describe the post-career lifestyle. (How about "Second Wind"?)

Pat Fejedelem

Pat and her husband Andy own and operate Our Hearts Bed and Breakfast Inn on West Colorado Avenue. They moved to Colorado Springs in 1992 from the Chicago area and opened the Inn in 1993. They love the area, people and climate.

Pat was employed for many years in the Executive

Offices of UARCO Business Forms Corporation in Barrington, Illinois. She and Andy were married in 1988 and have three children, and five grandchildren.

Pat has been a member of OCCHS since 1995 and has had her Inn on tour in the annual Holiday B&B Tour since its inception.

David Hughes

Dave Hughes is a charter member of OCCHS and has been very involved with the Society since it was formed. He is the owner of Old Colorado City Communications and was named one of the top 25 wireless innovators in the world in 1998 by Wired magazine.

Dave is a past President of the Board and is currently serving as the Treasurer of the Society. He and his wife, Pat, are Westside residents. Dave is head of the technology committee and is responsible for the award winning web site of the Society.

Dave is seeking reelection to the Board.

Kristine Van Wert

Kristine, along with her husband Lawrence, has been a Westsider for four and one-half years.

She was originally attracted to the Westside twelve years ago by its history, charm and promise. Kristine is considered a Westside activist and she has:

- o Been a Board member of the Organization of West Side Neighbors for two terms.
- o Authored the West Colorado lighting project seven years ago.
- o Participated on the CSIP01 Improvement committee.
- o Been an involved citizen in many upcoming projects and concerns pertaining to the historic Westside.

Kristine's outside interests are travel, history, arts and gardening. She has been a member of OCCHS for six years.

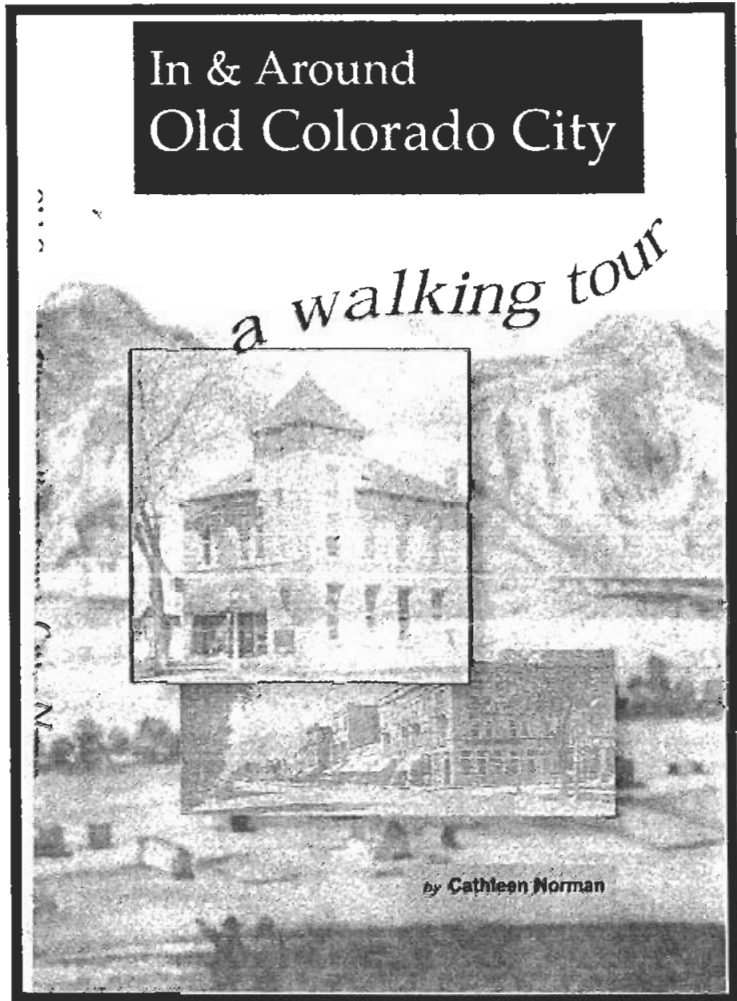
Order Form

OCCHS Walking Tour Guide Book

The OCCHS Walking Tour Book is finally on the way to us. We are anticipating receipt of the books around the first of June and will be taking orders at the OCCHS Annual Meeting on Friday, May 11th.

Every community has a story to tell, and what better way than through its architecture. Old Colorado City's historic buildings and neighborhoods reveal its rich heritage. Colorado City began as the earliest permanent settlement in the Pikes Peak Region. The town briefly served as the territorial capital and as a gateway to the gold and silver mining regions in Colorado's Rocky Mountains. During the 1890s Cripple Creek gold mining boom, it became an important railroad hub and milling center. Colorado City was annexed as a suburb of Colorado Springs in 1917, but still celebrates its colorful and lively past. This portable, easy-to-read guide takes you on tours through Old Colorado City. A walk through the area's historic commercial district and the neighborhood residences shows how the city began and how it grew. *In and Around Old Colorado City* is published by the Old Colorado City Historical Society.

Taken from by back cover of the book



tear here

Complete and return with your check or credit card information to: OCCHS, 1 South 24th St, Colorado Springs, CO 80904
 Name: _____ The guide is \$10 (less 10% for OCCHS members)
 plus tax and shipping

Address: _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____ Check enclosed for \$ _____
 Phone Number(____) _____ (payable to OCCHS)

_____ @ \$10 (\$9 members) \$ _____ Charge my credit card for \$ _____

Add \$0.61 per book sales tax +\$ _____ Name on Card _____

S/H \$2.25 for 1st & _____ Visa or MC (circle one) Expiration date _____

\$1.25 for each additional book + \$ _____ Account number _____

TOTAL ORDER \$ _____ Signature (required on CC Sales) _____

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

One Hundred and Twenty-five Years Ago February 1876

Driving into the Springs from Manitou one morning this week, we met a train drawn by five pairs of heavy mules, there being three heavy wagons lashed together closely one behind the other, the pole of one running under the axle of the preceding one, so as to bring the fore wheels of one close up to the hind wheels of the other, all those wagons being heavily laden with merchandise of various kinds, supplies for the miners of the San Juan country. All this long caravan was directed and managed by one man who rode on the right wheel mule with a line leading over the head of intervening ones to the right leader or leading mule, and with that line by well understood jerks and motions he urged on the whole team or checked its pace, or turned them right or left at will. We noticed that the first wagon was the heaviest one and the most heavily laden and on it was a brake applied to the wheel by the driver by means of a strap held in his hand, with which he could arrest the whole train of wagons and hold it if necessary on a steep hill so that the wheel mules were relieved of the fatigue and labor of holding back. It is not an uncommon thing to meet similar trains sometimes two pairs of mules to one wagon — sometimes three pairs of mules to two wagons. We met five such teams starting through the Ute Pass on Tuesday morning. (2/12 CS Gazette)

The Committee on Territories have under consideration a bill providing for the admission of New Mexico and Colorado, and also one to change the government of Territories so as to permit the people to elect their own officers instead of having them appointed, as is now done, by the general government. These measures have not yet been fully matured, but meet with favorable consideration by the Committee, and will doubtless be reported in a short time. (2/12 CS Gazette)

The Manitou House, under the good management of its gentlemanly proprietors, Messrs. Peck and Dana, presents an appearance of bustle and activity quite like that of the more genial Summer time. Guests by the score are seen walking the broad piazza these pleasant mornings, or starting in bands on foot, horseback, or in carriages to wander over the mountains and inhale the fresh pure air. (2/10 CS Gazette)

Mr. T.B. Mitchell, whose farm lies twelve miles southeast of Colorado Springs, near Fountain City, brought to market on Friday a load of white turnips of extraordinary size and quality. He told us he raised twenty thousand pounds on a trifle over one acre of land. All of them were large, round and perfect and some weighed over ten pounds each. (2/10 CS Gazette)

Mr. T.E. Johnson, in behalf of the Red Cross Encampments of this place, desires us to say that the statement made in the *Mountaineer* that there were members of that organization on the jury which brought in a verdict of not guilty in the case of the Town of Colorado Springs vs. Numa Vidal for selling liquor inside the town limits, is untrue. (2/19 CS Gazette)

The people of Pueblo are in a state of feverish excitement. The A.T.&S.F. railroad is rapidly approaching their borders and the echoes of the locomotive already startles the neighboring hills and valleys. (2/19 CD Gazette)

The Department of Agriculture, at Washington, which last years sent out numerous seeds for trial by our farmers, has been writing to said farmers for reports as to how said seeds got along in our soil and climate. Most of our farmers are at a loss as to the character of the report they should make, but one of them has written back in this style: "Seeds started well—soil and climate suited them in early life—I refer you to enclosed grasshopper for their subsequent career." (2/26 CS Gazette)

We regret to chronicle the destruction by fire, on Sunday morning last, of the pretty rustic cottage on the side hill near the hotel in Manitou Park, occupied by Mr. F.C. Thorntop, who came near suffering personal injury in efforts to extinguish the flames and save the furniture. It is said to have been a bijou of a home, with its handsome rustic mantle and other inside engagements in keeping with the rustic structure and its wild surroundings. (2/26 CS Gazette)

Seventy-five years ago. February 1926

The city's new \$10,000 steel viaduct on Cabin creek carries the water pipe line between the summit of Mount Manitou and the Half Way house over a 60-foot gulch. The viaduct is 220 feet long and 60 feet high. It replaces an antiquated wooden structure and is constructed to withstand the inroads of time and resist the elements which wreck havoc with a timber bridge. Entirely constructed of steel, there will be little wear and tear on the new viaduct. (2/7 CS Gazette)

One of the most novel programs of the year was given at West Junior Wednesday morning in the school gym. The Gold and Purple platoons were seated on opposite sides, with places reserved for the girls. The program consisted of a hard-fought basketball game between the Gold as Cotter, Ryden, Marshal, Shepard, and Powers, and the Purple as, Tuttle, Davis, Taylor, Marple, and Cass. Gold won 19-16 and a clever exhibition of stunts was made by the tumbling club. (2/7 CS Gazette) (continued on page 6)

WEST SIDE MEMORIES

(continued from page 5)

The Women's Study club will meet Tuesday evening at 7:30 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Clara Garnier, 1705 West Colorado Avenue. "The Origin of the Drama" will be presented by Miss Pearl Brennicke. (2/7 CG Gazette)

The Clavilux, famous color organ, developed by Thomas Wilfred, will be played at the city auditorium next Monday at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. recitals, under the auspices of the Colorado Springs Musical club. In Baltimore, two years ago, the Clavilux was featured in a festival of light, held on the site for the new cathedral, and during the five evenings, about 50,000 people saw the most impressive performance. A large altar-like screen was built, flanked by beautiful cedars, and a specially constructed Clavilux was set up by Mr. Wilfred's mechanics in an underground chamber. During the ceremonies all lights were suddenly dimmed out, the large green and gold curtains that had hidden the white screen from view parted, and under the star-lit sky the vast crown beheld with awe the glowing colors of an unearthly sunrise, growing in intensity, with strange forms ascending and unfolding. (2/10 CS Gazette)

Traffic over the Divide-Cripple Creek road has been blocked by snow and motorists are being routed over the Florissant road, it was learned yesterday. Teller county commissioners will note clear the Four-Mile canyon route until weather conditions are more advantageous. (2/10 CS Gazette)

A.M. Wilson city manager, announced yesterday that construction of concrete conduits across West Pikes Peak Avenue at Thirtieth and Thirty-third streets will be started as soon as the frost is out of the ground. The Thirtieth street conduit will carry off water from a small creek entering the city at that point. The conduit at Thirty-third street will replace a wooden bridge, which is in disrepair. The conduit also will take care of water coming through a drawl. (2/11 CS Gazette)

With the posting by Spencer Penrose of a prize in the form of a beautiful loving cup, local soccer organizations will have recently been given an added incentive to do battle. Proffer of the trophy was made to "Scotty" Young two days ago, and became public information at a special meeting of the Broadmoor soccer team. Permanent possession of the cup, which will be known as the Broadmoor Soccer trophy, passes to the team winning three consecutive annual victories. Five cup games will be played each season, victory resting with the team totaling the highest number of points. All future games this season will be played upon the turf of the Cheyenne Country Club polo grounds and it is expected that that club games will start in a short while. (2/12 CS Gazette)

West Side Memories are transcribed by Jan Knox

OCCHS Annual Meeting Friday, May 11, 2001

The OCCHS Annual Meeting will be held at the Center on Friday, May 11, 2001. Refreshments will be served at 10 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 11 a.m. Annual reports will be presented by the officers of the organization and there will be an election of new Board members. Please see the separate article in this newsletter regarding the candidates for the board. Make your plans now to attend this important annual meeting. Only the annual meeting is planned. There will not be a guest speaker.

From the President

If you were not at the April OCCHS monthly meeting, you missed out on an outstanding presentation by Celinda Kaelin on the Ute Indians. Congratulations to Celinda who was recently elected to the World Council of Indigenous People. Celinda's books are available in our bookstore and I am sure you will find them as interesting and informative as I did. They are *Journey Song* and *Pikes Peak Backcountry*.

Territory Days, May 26, 27, & 28, are fast approaching and OCCHS will be participating. If you can help in the bookstore, in the cabin with the bake sale and other sales, please call Bev Disch. She needs volunteers and also people to bake those great homemade items that make the bake sale successful.

On page 8, please note the Arts and Craft Days in Bancroft Park each Saturday ALL summer. I want to give Jan Knox and John and Pat Wright a big thank you for their work and commitment to these summer events. They already have over 30 vendors committed for each Saturday. John Wright will be going in the hospital on May 8th for open heart surgery, and I am sure that you will want to keep him and Pat in your thoughts and prayers. John is determined to be back on his feet and ready for the summer craft activities.

Our annual meeting will be on Friday, May 11th. We will be electing new members to our Board. Please plan on attending this meeting.

This will be my last message to you as President. I thank you for all the support and encouragement that you have given Becky and me and we will look forward to our continued involvement with the Society. It takes all of us to make the Society a success and I know you will give the new Board your continued support.

Gordon

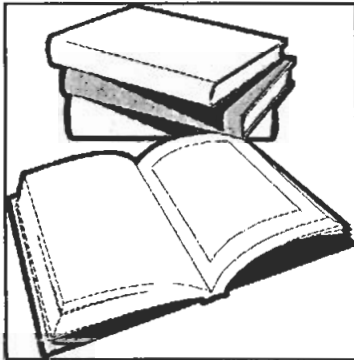
From the Bookstore

By: Agnes Johnson

Cuidado con las mujeres ast ut as! Or in English, "Watch Out for Clever Women"!!

This is the title of the book that was nominated for the Texas Bluebonnet Award as well as the 1995 Southwest Book Award Border Regional Library Association. The illustrations are by Vicke Trego Hayes.

The book is a collection of Mexican folk tales as told by Joe Hayes. Mr. Hayes is now a resident of Santa Fe, New Mexico and is recognized as one of America's foremost storytellers. He learned his Spanish as a child from friends and schoolmates as he lived in a town about fifty miles from the Mexican border.. He worked as an adult in Mexico and Spain exploring for minerals. He later taught high school English in New Mexico but later decided to pursue a career as a storyteller.



This is his fourteenth book and is a selection of short Mexican folk stories. True to most folk tales there is a moral to each one. Some of the intriguing titles are: In the Days of King Adobe; That Will Teach You; Just Say Baaaa; and Watch Out. I liked the tale, "The Day it Snowed Tortillas."

The book is written in both Spanish and English -- for that I am grateful as my limited Spanish "es muy mal."

These tales are every bit as entertaining as our more familiar, "The Fox and the Grapes" or "The Golden Fish." You will find them fascinating and get a good chuckle and appreciation of the clever women in each story.

TERRITORY DAYS 2000

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY, & SUNDAY
MAY 26 - 27 - 28, 2001**

OLD COLORADO CITY

Plan to attend is annual event and be a part of ushering in the Summer Season.

OCCHS will be participating with:

Bake Sale

Face Painting for the Children

Items For Sale from our Bookstore

**IN THE HISTORIC LOG CABIN
IN BANCROFT PARK**

**IF YOU CAN HELP.....PLEASE GIVE BEV DISCH
A CALL.....634-5023....WE NEED YOU!!!**

Lucille D. Cunningham

12 Friendship Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
Lucyle@yahoo.com
(719) 630-7578

April 23, 2001

Old Colorado City Historical Society
1 So. 24th St.
Colorado Springs, CO

Dear Editor,

I want to thank the outgoing president, Gordon Gray, for being the President of the OCCHS over the past four years.

The job he's accomplished has been comprehensive due to the fact that he's not only served as the Executive Officer of the Society, but has had the additional task of keeping the Museum functioning after it became apparent the funds were not available to retain a Director. Many tasks arise unexpectedly from these two areas of responsibility. Thankfully, Gordon has managed to take care of them.

Gordon faced many problems when he took over the job of President. Problems are not easy to resolve to everyone's satisfaction and trying to do so is time consuming. I was impressed with the complete Board Meeting Agendas which Gordon assembled and provided as the President. It appeared to me that parliamentary procedures were able to be followed as a result.

As we all know, dealing with various and widely divergent personalities can be challenging. Gordon took on the task with a smile and an understanding that we are all unique individuals with our own ideas and agendas, often marching to the tune of our own drummer.

With the responsibility for a multitude of executive tasks, many times Gordon even took on the custodial needs of the building himself. Being short of operational funds, and of volunteer help on the unsavory work, Gordon simply did it himself. I personally know of many extra trips Gordon made to the Center, often late and after other meetings, to make sure everything was locked up. Unable to find anyone capable of getting the newsletter out (often the Society's ONLY contact with it's membership) Gordon took it upon himself. Being the President of an organization is a big job in and of itself for most of us. Gordon had the added load of keeping the Center open and functioning, truly an 'double duty' job.

Thanks Gordon, for serving as our President, for keeping the Center operating and for watching so carefully over our investment. Your leadership is appreciated.

Lucille D. Cunningham
Lucille D. Cunningham
Member and former President

OCCHS ARTS & CRAFTS in the Park

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

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

In Bancroft Park - Old Colorado City - 24th & Colorado Avenue, Colorado Springs

*MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW AND PLAN ON ATTENDING
30+ VENDORS WILL BE PRESENT EACH AND EVERY SATURDAY*

MANY, MANY BEAUTIFUL & UNIQUE ITEMS WILL BE FOR SALE.

**If you are interested in receiving information on being a vendor,
please call Pat Wright (719) 527-0393 or Jan Knox (719) 689-2355**

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