

# WEST



# WORD

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 7

Sept.  
July 2001

## Nostalgia, or is it getting old and tending to live in the past ?

I've been around this town more years than most of the people I know, well, at least more than a lot of them at any rate.

I was born here in what was then known as Beth El Hospital, it is now called Memorial Hospital. I have lived most of my life, at least that part up to now, here. I rather suspect I will live what is left of that life here. At least that's the plan today. I've seen a whole lot of changes come down the proverbial pike. I'm not sure each of them has been a positive thing for my "home town".

Lets visit one or two of those changes. It might be interesting for some of the newcomers and I'll give you my opinion of the general worth of some of those changes. If your opinion differs from mine let me know and like that lady on TV with the raspy voice and obnoxious laugh says, "We'll talk".

When I was a kid, one of my favorite outings with the family was to go up the old Midland Railroad line and collect spikes cast aside when they removed the track. Try that today. As a matter of fact, try even finding the old right-of-way for most of that railroad. At least for the part that is outside Ute Pass. I thought about that the other day when we were moving a cabinet here at the house and I found one of those old spikes with a note on it written by my mother. It said that I had found that spike near Ridge Road in 1945. My mother loved to put little notes on things. I wore a little note stuck to my shirt that identified who I was, as if I would forget, until I was approximately in the fourth grade. I might make fun about it now, but it worked. I have never forgotten my name since. That railroad being gone is a good thing. Can you imagine trying to get to the expressway with a railroad between it and the Avenue? Overpasses you say? And just where would you put them?

Another favorite of mine was to go to an ice-cream parlor called the Purple Cow. They had wooden booths and served the best ice cream in the world. A huge purple cow stood serenely on top of the building. I have often wondered what happened to that cow. I will have to admit that at that time in my life I was not a connoisseur of ice cream. As a matter of fact I rather suspect I still am not, but I sure like it and go to the Old Colorado Creamery or the West Side Ice Cream parlor as often as

possible. The building that housed the Purple Cow is still standing. It's right at Adams Crossing on the south side of the Avenue across from the Garden of the Gods campground. Unfortunately it isn't an ice-cream parlor anymore. We definitely need more ice-cream parlors on the west side. The Purple Cow being gone, to my way of thinking, is a bad thing.

Back in the olden days as my grandchildren and even my children would say, the Old Colorado Creamery was a filling station. And, in case you are wondering, they had cars and planes when I was a kid. Indian attacks were pretty much just an ancient part of history. However, Fort Carson, Camp Carson at first, was still in the future.

There was a doughnut shop next door to what is now Michael Garman's Galleries. It was called Spudnuts and the basis for them was, of course, potato flour. They had the lightest fluffiest donuts in town. I can only compare them, at least in my mind as I haven't had a spudnut for fifty years, to Krispy Kream donuts. At least that's how I remember them. Of course back then Dunkin' and Winchell were still perfecting their recipes. Actually I don't much like either one of those, I much prefer the Westside Daylight Donuts.

Just east of the intersection of Ridge Road and the Avenue was a tiny little rundown building that sold hamburgers ten for a dollar. The building still exists only now its empty. They had a marvelous sloppy-joe sandwich and they packed them in a paper bag. They didn't bother wrapping them individually that seems to be a modern concept. It made for a rather messy lunch but when you're young that doesn't seem to count nearly as much as it does today.

On the south side of the Avenue, back in the alley behind what is now Goodwill, was the outlet for a potato chip factory that was housed in the existing Goodwill building (the building with the glass bricks in the front). You could buy a brown paper shopping bag full of fresh potato chips for fifteen cents. I can't remember the name of the company but they made mighty fine potato chips.

mcasey

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

**WEST WORD**

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY  
 THE OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 A NONPROFIT CORPORATION  
 ©2001 OCCHS

LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTIFACTS AND STORIES CAN BE  
 DELIVERED TO THE OCCHS CENTER OR MAILED TO:

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**

President	Beverley Disch	719-634-5023
Vice President	LaRue Ebersole	719-685-3265
Secretary	Karla Hefferan	719-630-8241
Treasurer	David Hughes	719-636-2040
	Cynthia Estes	719-632-9124
	Betsy Evans	719-635-4782
	Pat Fejedelem	719-473-8684
	Kristine Van Wert	719-630-2155

**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 REAL 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

(May - September)

TUES-SAT 10 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
 SUN 1:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.  
 Closed Monday

*Visit our web site for even more history!*

<http://history.oldcolo.com>

stories documents  
 manuscript photographs  
 interviews biographies  
 Book & Gift Shop online

e-mail us at: [history@oldcolo.com](mailto:history@oldcolo.com)

**The Old Colorado City Historical Society**

proudly presents

**THE FOURTH ANNUAL**

**FAIRVIEW CEMETERY CRAWL**

1000 S. 26th Street

**Saturday & Sunday**

**September 8 & 9**

**3:00 PM — 6 PM**

Famous "Residents" of the Cemetery will be portrayed  
by Society Members and Volunteers

Hear stories of their lives during the existence of  
Colorado City 1859- 1917

\$5 adults — \$2 children (under 12)

Tickets may be obtained at the Old Colorado City History Center  
1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs  
Or by calling the Center at (719) 636-1225

Proceeds benefit the Old Colorado City History Center



Colorado City was founded in 1859 as one of the earliest settlements in the territory that would become Colorado. It served as a supply town for prospectors and adventurers heading up Ute Pass into the Rocky Mountain Gold fields. Several cemeteries served Colorado City. The first cemetery was located by Fountain Creek close to present day 31st street. Later it was moved to the ridge north of Colorado Avenue and present day 26th street. These were abandoned and relocated for various reasons including hard ground, lack of water, or Indian concerns. The most controversial west side cemetery was located on the mesa near Coronado High School. Some of the graves were relocated from there to Fairview Cemetery and others still remain on the mesa in Pioneer Park with a single marker in their memory.

One of Colorado City's pioneers and founders, Anthony Bott, donated about thirty-three acres in Colorado City in 1895 to start Fairview Cemetery. Bott is buried in the cemetery. Today about half of the total acreage is developed and about 12,000 people are buried there.

# West Side Memories

## WEST SIDE MEMORIES TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

One Hundred and Twenty-five Years Ago  
September 1876

A young man left Santa Fe, New Mexico, on foot, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August, and reached this city yesterday. The distance is about 335 miles. He reports that the Mexicans are worse than Chinese for working for low wages, and says that Santa Fe is no place for mechanics to emigrate to. 9/2 C. S. Gazette

Theodore Brown, south of the city, has succeeded in raising a good crop of watermelons by persistently fighting the grasshoppers. He wrapped papers around a long rope and with the assistance of another man dragged it repeatedly over the vines, always driving the insects toward the south in which direction they were traveling. The ravenous little beasts did not have time to whet their teeth before the machine was coming down upon them, and barely looking over their shoulders, they did not wait to consult the bill of fare, but immediately concluded to dine elsewhere. Mr. Brown may be said to have a corner in watermelons, as he is about the only man in this vicinity who succeeded in saving the crop. 9/2 C. S. Gazette

On Monday evening the Colorado Springs Cornet Band serenaded D. C. Crawford, Esq., Republican candidate for State Auditor. They played some beautiful airs and gave three cheers for the "the first Auditor of the new State," after which they were invited into the house and cigars were freely distributed, and a pleasant half hour spent in congratulatory and friendly conversation. Judge Pierce, of Memphis, was sought for to make a speech but could not be found. Mr Crawford thanked the band for the compliment and after another tune, the good nights were spoken. 9/2 C. S. Gazette

Rev. C. W. Blodgett has organized a Sunday School in Colorado City. Regular services are to be held there every second Sabbath, in the afternoon at 3 o'clock. 9/26 C. S. Gazette

An article in the Gazette two weeks since spoke of the need of care in the use and handling of firearms. An incident occurred in our city a few days since showing that this admonition will bear repeating. As a revolver was being examined near the residence of one of our citizens, a ball from it entered a window and, passing within a few feet of one of the inmates, lodged in the opposite wall. This may have been purely accidental, nevertheless whizzing bullets and jingling glass are not pleasant sounds in our quiet homes. 9/26 C. S. Gazette

Steps are being taken for the organization of a new company to take charge of the Hook and Ladder apparatus belonging to the city. It is very important that the fire department should be thoroughly organized at once, and all those who wish for the safety and prosperity of the city should not hesitate to sign the roll, which may be found at True & Sutton's Grocery. Citizens may be assured that whatever action they may take in this matter will meet with the hearty approval of the Council. 9/26 C.

S. Gazette

Under the constitution, women can hold any school district office and can vote at any school district election. 9/30 C. S. Gazette

We are informed that in the precinct of Florissant, out of thirty-six votes, the Republicans will have a majority of at least eighteen. 9/30 C. S. Gazette

Seven hundred and sixty-four names have been entered on the registry books in Colorado Springs. 9/30 C. S. Gazette

### SANTA FE TRAIL..THEN AND NOW

Freight wagons no longer cross the prairies, but the Santa Fe Trail's legacy endures as buildings, historic sites, landmarks and original wagon-wheel ruts. Through slides, and visuals, come visit the trail from its beginning in 1821 near Boonville, Missouri, to its terminus in Santa Fe 900 miles away. Catch the spirit of the times as this trail of commerce served the southwest for 60 years. Many people who came to Colorado City in its early days, traveled on the Santa Fe Trail, using the cut-off to Fort Pueblo, then up the Front Range. Mary Stephens Humphreys, our program presenter on September 14<sup>th</sup>, has lived in Colorado since 1952. She has been a public school teacher for 30 years. Her BS is from the University of Arkansas and she has an MA from Adams State College. Her interest in the Santa Fe Trail began while teaching in Las Animas, CO which is on the Trail. There she watched Bents Old Fort being rebuilt in 1976. Also, the annual historic celebration in Las Animas is called Santa Fe Trail Day. In the fall of 1999, Mary and her husband took a week to completely follow the mountain branch of the trail to Santa Fe, beginning near Boonville, MO, visiting sites, museums, and ruts along the way. Her slides for her program come from this trip.-jek

### An Historic Moment

What was it like to be the second person to walk on the lunar surface? Astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin who followed Neil Armstrong comments after Armstrong made his famous first step described the experience in an interview for British television: I held onto the near edge of the handing gear and checked my balance then hesitated a moment . . . I am the first person to wet his pants on the Moon."

### President's Report

We have had a wonderfully, productive summer. The crowds for Founders' Day were estimated at 2,000 on Saturday and 1,000 on Sunday. We had sales of \$300 at the log cabin thanks to all the baked goodies our members provided.

Jan Knox had many craft vendors in the park with food vendors as well. The entertainment of musicians, Indian flutes, actors in period costumes, and Old Fashioned Square Dancers was well received. A well-planned event thanks to Jan Knox. Crafts in Bancroft Park is an ongoing fund raiser for our Society which has raised thousands of dollars for us. It runs through the summer averaging 50 vendors every Saturday with 2 to 4 food vendors. Come and enjoy them. Jan Knox and John and Pat Wright have worked hard getting these vendors.

Come also to the Center and see the new exhibits Liz Geiss, our exhibit chairman, has created. Look at the artist Charles Craig exhibit and the new Plains Indian exhibit. On her agenda is the up-coming Luther McKnight exhibit. Don't forget our Fourth Annual Fairview Cemetery Crawl, Sept. 8 and 9 at 1000 S. 26th Street. Tell all your friends and help sell tickets for this event.

See you all at our September 14th general meeting and listen to Mary Huphreys' presentation about the Santa Fe Trail.

Bev Disch

President

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Summer continues to be kind to our History Center's activities and fortunes.

We have already reached our goal of netting at least \$4,000 over costs from the Craft Fairs organized in concert with the Farmer's Market that takes place right next to our Center on 24th Street every Saturday. The crowds have been larger than in years past. Through mid August we have taken in nearly \$7,000 with costs of \$2,000.

Sales of our new Walking Tour book have been steady. We are getting orders from resellers as much as we are from direct sales to customers. The Denver Public Library just ordered 21 books at our retail price of \$9.95. Would that the Pikes Peak Library District did the same!

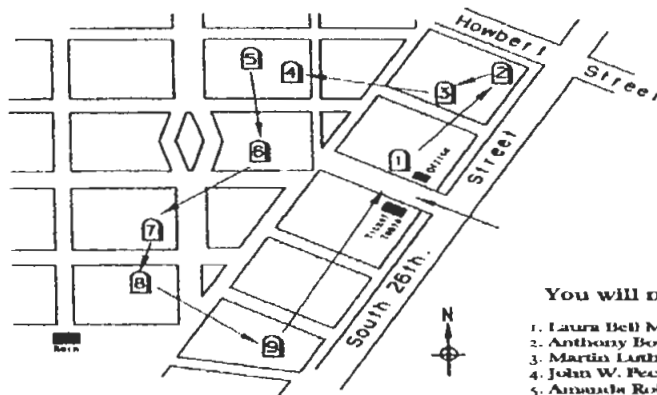
Founder's Day, which is not a fund raiser, brought in \$919 gross, which includes a generous \$500 grant by the Pikes Peak National Bank. \$151 was from Bake Sales in the Cabin. Visitors to Old Colorado City like our baked goods! Do you suppose the traditional log cabin walls make the cookies taste better? \$48 was our cut from the Face Painter. The little kids like their faces painted.

Needed maintenance on our building and grounds is gradually being bought and paid for. We are sharing the \$1,360 cost of repairing the sidewalks with the City's 'Tree Root' program. Our share will be \$680. Gutters have been cleaned out, and part of the outdoor painting needed has been done. At a cost of over \$1,000!

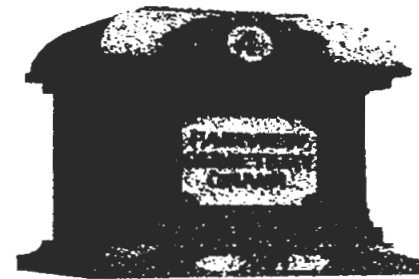
So July - and so far August - are helping us accumulate reserves for the winter. The Old Colorado City Historical Society is not in recession!

Dave Hughes  
Treasurer

### Fairview Cemetery Old Colorado city



Please be respectful of the residents who now rest in Fairview Cemetery by leaving the grounds and markers undisturbed and depositing trash in the trash cans at the Fairview Cemetery Crawl entrance.



#### You will meet:

1. Laura Bell McDaniel (1861-1928)
2. Anthony Bott (1835-1916)
3. Martin Luther McKnight (1894-1956)
4. John W. Peck (1876-1957)
5. Annabelle Robinson (1877-1914)
6. Blanche Burton (1859-1909)
7. Hattie Hedger Frost (1862-1950)
8. Louise Koch (1876-1961)
9. John C. McCrary (1869-1956)

#### Portrayed by:

- Lindsay Clark
- Dave Hughes
- Don Ellis
- Larry Blaszcz
- Dottie Sporn\* (Sunday)
- Jean Christopher
- Tami McConigal
- Marta Curry
- LaRue Eberole\*

\* Descendant of the person portrayed

## From the Bookstore

By: Agnes Johnson

If you ever wondered what life was like for a pioneer family crossing the continent you'll be fascinated when you read, "Daily life in a covered Wagon," by Paul Erickson.



The author first introduces the journey from Independence to Oregon with a map depicting the route of the hazardous trip. James H. Polk was some of the impetus for much of the trek to the West when he promised Americans, "all of Oregon or War," since Great Britain claimed part of Oregon.

The author follows the 1853 journey of the Larkin Family consisting of Hiram Larkin - 35; Hetty Larkin - 33, his wife; the children Rachel 14, Abraham 10, Rebecca 7 and Margaret 3. Also included is a hired 18 year old orphan known as Mathew, or Matt Bel Knap. His task will be taking care of the stock and hunting.

In Independence Hiram buys a new wagon. At \$11.00 it is the most expensive purchase he makes. The description of the wagon from Hetty's diary reads, "the wagon looks so nice with the white cover. It is plenty high enough for me to stand straight under the roof. Once it starts rolling with everything packed away, ship-shape, it will be a prairie schooner indeed!" An explanation of the parts of the wagon is shown. I never knew the parts of a wagon. Did you know the wheel rims were iron and heated until they expanded before put into place? All sorts of good stuff to know!

On pages 10-11 pictures show articles they placed inside. Guess where they put eggs and china.

A very interesting section is on communications and how they sent messages back home. The materials used were startling. Pranksters existed back then also. The responsibilities of Captain Bonner are given.

Other chapters deal with daily chores, cooking, hitching up the wagon, the landmarks on the trail, Indian Tribes, etc.

A favorite time for Hattie was called nooning. She didn't have to cook and could rest from carrying her youngest daughter all morning.

A sad chapter reads, "mishaps", this pictures some of the problems encountered with sick oxen, down wagons, illnesses and difficult terrain to cross.

They were at Independence Rock on the 4th of July and the train celebrated. Many climbed the rock to carve their signatures. (many names still exist to this day) There was ample food consisting of antelope, sage hens, rabbit, fresh bread and a real treat cucumbers, brought from Missouri. They danced until late at night

Cholera killed many and it was clever how they tried to protect the graves from Indian robbers.

Many years ago the children and I rode in a covered wagon in Cody, Wyoming. I'll never forget how uncomfortable that ride was, and how sore my body felt. It gave me a greater appreciation for the women who walked those many miles, and I could see why.

My friend, Gloria, walked part of the reenactment of the push-cart Mormon Trek. She said it was a glorious experience for her. I marveled at her stamina.

I think of the sacrifices made in leaving homes, family, friends, and precious possessions behind to face the new frontier. Their diaries make engaging reading. The last chapter is titled "Oregon at last", and is devoted to their arrival in Oregon and how the Larkin's fared in their new land.

Jan Knox recommended the book, "Pioneer Voices from Plymouth to Breckinridge", by Cynthia Peabody Anderson. This chronicles the Peabody Family over eleven generations. The emphasis is mainly on the women of the Peabody Clan and their roll in shaping later centuries of Peabody women. There are many bibliographies of various members—all of which are absorbing reading. A book that should be of interest to those tracing their own genealogy as well as a wealth of interesting history.

### October 12-13

**25th Annual Decorative Painters' Bazaar**  
(at the History Center) Hand painted items for home, gifts, or fun and fancy.

Friday October 19 - 9 a.m.— 7 p.m.

Saturday October 20 - 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.

(Setup Thursday October 18 2p.m. — 6 p.m.)

### Crafts in Bancroft Park

Every Saturday through October 6th

### Seventh Annual Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour

Sunday, December 2 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Refreshments & drawing at the Old Colorado City Historical Society History Center at 1 South 24th Street.

### Fourth Annual Fairview Cemetery Crawl

Saturday and Sunday, September 8 & 9

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### General Meetings at History Center every

2nd Friday at 11:a.m. program to be announced.