



RED ROCKS CANYON

POLITICS AND THE RED ROCK CANYON

by Dave Hughes

Note: This article is as much an opinion piece as a report on historical Red Rock Canyon. I have been asked to write it for our newsletter because it deals with real issues on our Westside, and a fading history of Western values.

The Gazette Telegraph recently reported that Red Rock Canyon is for sale again after the option with Zydeco expired without a sale. It fell through after the City of Colorado Springs refused to supply additional water to the property so it could be developed.

I have watched every environmental do-gooder and government bureaucrat – as well as meddling elected officials try to tell John Bock what he can and cannot do with his family's property for over 25 years now. And deny to him what they do for nearly everyone else. And then try to intimidate him into selling his land for far less than it is worth today, or give large parts of it away for public use. For a city, state, and county as well as private groups, which claim that they are enlightened, and conservative, respecting a man's property rights - to act the way they have toward John and his private Red Rock Canyon, has been hypocritical in the extreme.

John Bock's young ranching father who was wounded in World War I, with pioneering foresight, painfully assembled those 800 acres over 80 years ago. They happen to include an extension of the red sandstone formations that make up the Garden of the Gods, and have the historical remnants of quarrying stone which was used in many local estates, as well as one of the last wildlife sanctuaries close to the front range. He did this so he and struggling Colorado City men could survive

next to affluent Colorado Springs and haughty Manitou Springs where the rich and famous hung out without the pedestrian worries he had of how to make a living. He did it to provide for his own family and their future.

That has been the goal, and way of life, of many a pioneer who came to Colorado City and the surrounding area, for 143 years now. What 'modern' changes in attitude that has bedeviled John Bock the last 25 years is instructive about how the profoundly American West values have been eroded, and serves as a history lesson of its own.

I know that Red Rock Canyon property well, aging John Bock, and the history of the land and its owners. I even bought at auction priceless artifacts from Bock's father's collection of early County history. Things the uppity Pioneer's Museum would never display. Such as saloon spittoons from Colorado City to wooden Ox yokes used by pioneers to travel across the plains. The tax supported city (Pioneer's) museum put Bock's small private museum out of business 75 years ago. He had to charge for admission, the city, competing with him using tax money, was free. Those artifacts are now in the Old Colorado City Historical Center. The Bocks saved them. I saved them. And the non-profit Historical Society now saves them. And John has generously permitted our Society – without compensation to him - to reprint and sell a history his father wrote. We are reprinting it again, for it is a true 'West Side Story.' Its a kind of insight into the heritage of land and people almost alien to many modern residents in the metro area, too many of whom today want something for nothing, claiming 'public interest, and will stomp over another man's rights and lifetime of work to get it.

Its been shameful, going clear back into the 20s, how every government level has treated John Bock and his land. It included the State – which reneged on a written commitment in the 60's to build a traffic exchange point at the entrance to his large Red Rock Canyon from US 24, which would need it some day no matter who owned the land then. Then El Paso County Commissioners harassed him over his land fill making

continued on page 3

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

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
	Jack Patterson	719-634-7579

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
APRIL 12, 2002
At the History Center



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

Winter Hours
(September – May)

TUES – SAT 11 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
SUN 1:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Closed Monday

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Red Rocks continued

all sort of exaggerated claims of environmental damage, while he provided a valuable disposal service to those living west of I-25. Then the adjacent cities of Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs have given him, and every potential buyer of his land problems – grief over matters of annexation or water.

I know how much effort and at how much of his own time and expense Bock, unseen, has put in over the years into stewardship and preservation – without a dime of tax money - of the most important parts of the natural land as a wildlife refuge. Bear, cougar, birds flourish there. Few people have ever observed John on his tractor making sure water erosion didn't destroy the valley. I also know the appraisals that were made over the years by independent professionals. If anything, Red Rock Canyon today is worth far more than John's \$15 million asking price – which has remained the same for decades, while the price of everything else has skyrocketed.

Now if John Bock's land is so important to everyone else besides its rightful owner, as far as I am concerned they can all just put their money where their mouth is. That includes the Cities of Colorado Springs, and Manitou, and El Paso County government, and local environmental groups. The time has come for this community to put up or shut up, and thank John, and his deceased father, rather than revile them, for keeping that land as long as they have in the great shape it has been kept, so it can be enjoyed far into the future by everyone else.

In one of John Bock Sr. books he quotes an old Westside woman who also had been harassed by local government in the 1930's as saying "John, give the County Commissioners a good whuppin' for me."

Still sounds like good old fashioned Westside advice.



April
showers
bring
May
flowers

From President Disch

Pat Fejedelem, a board member, has contracted to be our new Events Planner Coordinator. She is looking into having weddings, receptions, and other events to bring more income to our society. She is planning a delightful Victorian tea in May with help from Bernideen who is a member of our society.

Dave Hughes, Cyndy Estes, and I had a very promising interview with Michael Olson who has taught Western History for over twenty years at the New Mexico University where he accessioned their collection of materials. He is retiring here after the spring semester and is very interested in our part-time archivists position.

I would like to welcome back over a dozen elapsed members who have rejoined our society. We all need to be encouraging our friends and neighbors to join us. Memberships are so important to us because they help support our society.

The nominations committee is working hard getting people to run for our board. There are five positions open this time. They need help filling these positions. Please think about running for our board of directors. Remember our May meeting is our annual meeting where the board elections take place.

I hope you all have had a joyous Easter Holiday.

Dev Disch, President

Treasurer's Report

Our finances remain healthy. Over \$26,000 in the bank during this very slow income time. This includes the \$4,000 already donated to us by the Old Colorado City Associates - businesses on the street - not to hold Craft Fairs except during Founders Day.

Even Mother Nature is cooperating. Our Utility Bill was only \$277 for February. I was bracing for \$350.

Dave Hughes
Treasurer

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

compiled by Jan Knox

April 1875

Canon City coal is a scarce article, and many of our citizens are sorry they did not lay in a stock before the strike of the miners. 4/3 *C.S. Gazette*

The docket of the April term of the District Court is said to be very large. It contains no less than half-a-dozen criminal cases, including three murder trials. 4/3 *C.S. Gazette*

The south-west part of town has been so thickly built up during the past year that it would make a very respectable appearance as a village by itself. This is one of the localities that was not considered desirable two years ago, but at the present time it is building up more rapidly than any other part of the town. 4/10 *C.S. Gazette*

The friends of Temperance should be grateful to the score of noble men who stood around the polls all day on Monday last contending for a principle--The day was cold and stormy, but they never forsook the post of duty, and when the sun went down the broken ranks of their demoralized foes bore evidence of the completeness of the victory, and the triumph of the right. 4/10 *C.S. Gazette*

Our Babcock Hook and Ladder Truck is about ready for shipment from St. Louis. It will probably be here within a fortnight. A room in the Emma House has been rented temporarily for the storage of the truck and engine. 4/17 *C.S. Gazette*

The first game of Base Ball of the season was played in Almo Square, on Saturday last, between the Freshman Nine and the Actives. The score stood: Freshman, 29 Actives, 17 *C.S. Gazette*

W. S. Stratton came down from Lake County the early part of the week, and reports everything in a prosperous condition in that neighborhood. 4/17

C.S. Gazette

The Manitou House may now be considered as fully prepared for the Summer season. A few of our citizens drove over to Manitou yesterday, on a visit of inspection, and from the sumptuous dinner set before them by Major R. I. Hopkins, the proprietor, we are satisfied that the reputation of his *Chef de Cuisine* has not been exaggerated. This artist, by the way, is the identical one employed by the Pullman Palace Car Company at the enormous salary of thirty-three hundred dollars per annum, to cater for the Grand Duke Alexis and party during their recent railroad trip over the Western country. The Hotel itself has been thoroughly renovated from garret to cellar, repainted, and re-carpeted throughout. One of the most important improvements made is that to furnish and carry off the water. Over four thousand gallons can be supplied daily, and distributed throughout the whole house. That intended for drinking purposes is thrice filtered through tanks packed with alternate layers of gravel and charcoal. The party spoke in the highest terms of the neatness of the entire establishment, and were particularly impressed with the cleanliness and convenience of the pantry and cooking rooms, which contain facilities surpassed by no hotel in the country. Major Hopkins' reputation as a capable and energetic hotel man is too well established to need special commendation, and his genial qualities as a landlord are admired by all who come in contact with him. 4/17 *C.S. Gazette*

If all persons who have wooden side-walks in front of their premises would drive down the nails and spikes therein, so that ladies can walk our street without danger of tearing their dresses, they would confer a great favor upon some hundreds of the representative of "the porcelain clay of human kind." 4/24 *C.S. Gazette*

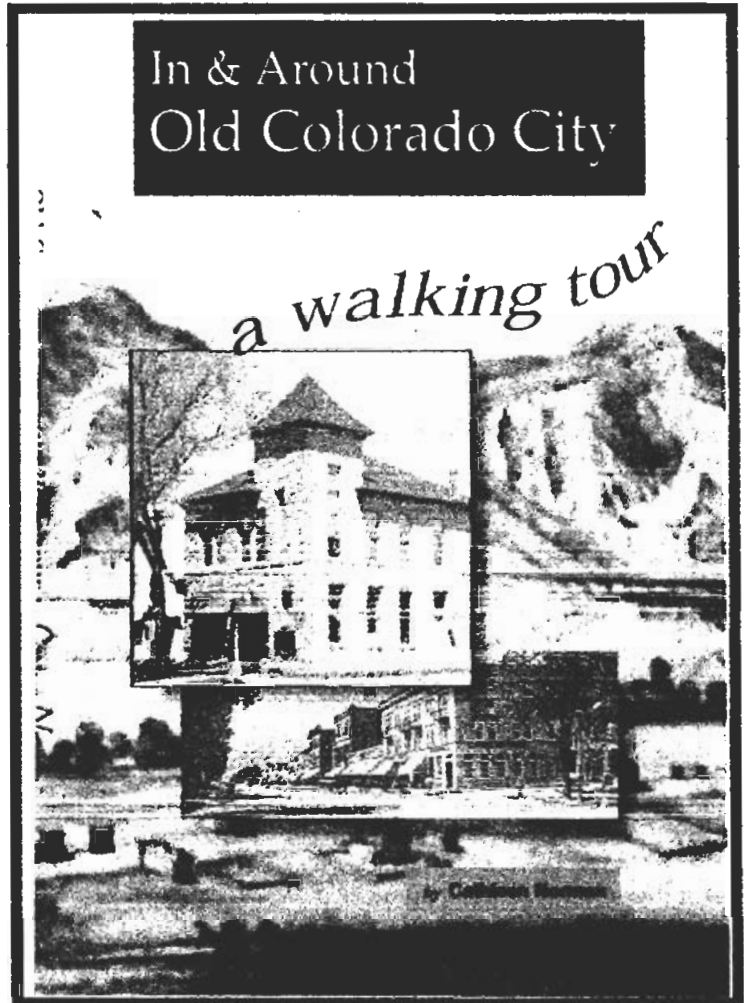
Order Form

OCCHS Walking Tour Guide Book

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

Get your copy at the OCCHS bookstore at 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904



Your Membership in the society is important!

Please be sure and renew your membership when it comes due we need your support.

We depend on membership dues to operate the Center. We need everyone to renew their membership and if at all possible to encourage friends, neighbors and anyone else to join our society. As I'm sure you all know our group is totally staffed with volunteers, so you dues go directly into making our society better, more vigorous, and gives us the ability to do more research, build better displays, and print and send out the monthly news letter.

Thank you for your continuing support, your OCCHS Board of Directors.

From the Bookstore

By Agnes Johnson



Leland Feitz has produced a brand new book for our reading pleasure. The surprise is that it is not about the history of another city or photographs of a certain location. Rather it is an autobiography. The title is "*From 7 to 77 – a Memoir of Sorts*".

You'll find a delightful section of remembrances beginning as a youth of 7 years of age to a mature 77, to quote Leland "the Golden Years". On each page is a vignette depicting a location, event or person he chose to include in his book. Each tale is true, he says, but some names have been changed.

There are so many unique stories that it is difficult to select some to pique your curiosity. His journey to 77 includes an amazing variety of residences and acquaintances, some famous, many musicians and a host of friends from all walks of life.

He notes his travels abroad, life in New York City, his work for Alexander Film of this city and many tales of his life in Cripple Creek and Colorado Springs. His experiences with Caroline Bancroft, another Colorado historian, are hilarious. His ability to paint a setting, his choice of vocabulary to bring his characters to life is superb. I particularly enjoyed his portal of downtown Colorado Springs, before the malls and growth. It brought back many of my own memories. Who doesn't remember Giddings, Perkins-Shearer, Wilber's, Waymiers, the Chief Theater and the vaudeville acts, Ruth's Oven, Village Inn, Derns and Barthels for those yummy chocolates and milk shakes? His mention of the "dress code" – who would think of going to town without hat and gloves, a suit or dress and dress shoes!

His anticipation for the spring and fall "Monkey Wards" catalogues arriving and his expression of his feelings for the demise of that company is a peek into his appreciation of the simple things of life. Although he did not marry until he was 60, he did not lack for female friends.

For total enjoyment of this 100 page book, filled with humor, fascinating people to know and wonderful images to ponder, plan to make some uninterrupted time to read this book for it is one you cannot put down. It is also a book that you will reread time and again. Along with his memoirs, Leland expresses the hope that his book just might encourage others to write down some of their own memoirs of family and friends.

One also gets a glimpse of the real Leland Feitz. This rather quiet, unassuming, gentle man writes with humor, pathos, satire and understanding, I think, with a little sadness and just a bit of anger. It always amuses me what a bargain Leland's books are. You couldn't spend \$6.95 anywhere else that would give you such entertainment. So rush to our bookstore to buy or order a copy or two for yourself and friends. I wonder what Leland's next 70 years will bring in his life?

Election to the Board of Directors

It is again approaching spring time in the Rockies — May—and time for the OCCHS election of candidates running for the Board of Directors, the folks that will guide our Society for the coming year.

Members need to be elected to fill five Board seats at our May 10th General Meeting at the History Center. The four Board members continuing their terms until May of 2003 are Dave Hughes, Kristine Van Wert, Cyndy Estes and Pat Fejedelem.

The following candidates have been selected by our outstanding Nominating Committee.

- Beverly Disch
- LaRue Ebersole
- Jo Cervone
- Tom Hendrix
- Nadine Gilman

The candidates will be at our May meeting. The election will follow the introduction of the candidates. Additional nominations can be made from the floor. Your vote is important and all members are urged to attend this election meeting

Events Coordinator's Corner

We are now encouraging the use of the OCCHS Center as a community "Events Site." Pat Fejedelem, Events Coordinator, will promote the OCCHS Center for this expanded revenue source. In our research, we have discovered a lot of community interest in historical locations for use as an Events Site and feel this will be a very successful source of income for us.

Please consider the OCCHS Center first as the meeting space for your organization, work-related event, or personal event! Just Call Pat, 473-8684, (@ Our Hearts Inn B&B so please from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. only) for OCCHS Events Site reservation details! Be sure and check your newsletter for our new "Events Coordinator Corner" for ongoing Events Information!

Announcing
"Victorian Tea & Victorian Fashion Show"
 Saturday, May 4th, 2002, 1-2:30 p.m.
\$15.00 Advance Sale Only

Join us for our 1st Annual Victorian Tea & Victorian Fashion show in the OCCHS Center and, weather permitting, on the Patio area Saturday, May 4th from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Bernideen's, as a donating sponsor, is providing the Teas, Table Floral Decorations (for sale after the tea with proceeds to the OCCHS), plus prizes & take-home favors! Bernideen will also donate a special prize to any "Lady Wearing Her Favorite Bonnet!!! The Food Designers, another great local sponsor, is donating the delicious "Tea Finger Foods & Desserts"; and Snow White Linens is sponsoring this event by donating all the linens. Kathleen Winkler, a local Harpist, will provide the live background music; Plus a special fun appearance by "The Unsinkable Molly Brown"!

Rita Wilhelm, Seasons Past Historic Clothing & Costume Shop, will moderate a Victorian History of American Ladies Fashions with models from the Victorian Heritage Society. (Remember, for your out-of-town guests, overnight lodging packages are available as well through

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

We will be updating and publishing a new membership directory in the near future. To ensure that we have correct and complete information for all our members, please take a moment and review the following request and respond as appropriate.

1. If you do not want your name in the directory OR do not want your telephone number listed, please contact Bev Disch.
2. If you current listing is incorrect or incomplete, please contact Bev. If you do not have the directory that was issued in 1999, please call the Center and ask the volunteer on duty to read your information in this directory.
3. If you have an e-mail address and would like to have it printed in the new directory, please send Gordon Gray an e-mail with this request. In the subject line of the e-mail, please enter "OCCHS Update"

Bev can be reached at (719) 634-5023 or bevdisch@aol.com
 Gordon's e-mail is: ggray01@aol.com

Thanks for your help and we expect the new directory to be available to our members in the April-May timeframe.

our local Victorian B&B's in our Historic Area.) You may even take a Carriage Ride from Our Hearts Inn to the Tea! Mark your calendars, tell your friends, and be sure to join us for Fun, Food, Fashion and, of course, Tea!

Old Colorado City Historical Society
 Territory Days Booth
 May 25, 26, & 27th

Please mark your calendars for this special 1st time event! The History Center will have a Territory Day Booth in the street in front of the Cabin. Join in the fun and help us at the booth or in the cabin (we hope to set up a Living History setting, demonstrating historic family life!). We will be seeking volunteers to help with both!

More details to follow - check our new "Events Coordinator Corner" in your next Newsletter!

Upcoming O.C.C.H.S. Programs

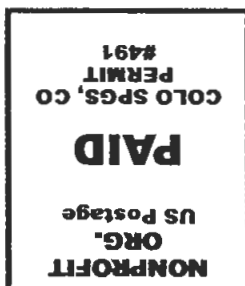
April 12, 2002—Dr. Jack Reeves speaking on "Mabel FitzGerald in 1911: a Breath of Fresh Air for Colorado's High Altitudes." She lived in Oxford England and wanted to go to medical school, but she couldn't because she was a woman. She wanted just to sit in on the classes and take the examinations, but her top grades didn't count because she was a woman. So, she became a medical technician and worked for the best scientists in the world - in Oxford, Denmark, the Rockefeller Institute in New York, and in Canada. At the Rockefeller she discovered in 1908, and published solely in her own name, that bacteria can make spores. (It's a lesson we have relearned from Anthrax, but it dates back to her.) But she didn't get on with Flexner, the Institute's head man, because she was a woman and she was too independent. When men, with whom she had worked in Oxford organized the first high altitude medical expedition in the Western Hemisphere and came to Pikes Peak in 1911, she wanted to join the research team, but she wasn't allowed to spend five weeks on the summit with these Victorians, because she was a woman.

So, she conducted her own research, traveling all around Colorado by herself, by train, stage, and horseback (with her glass apparatus strapped to her saddle), going to the raucous mining camps: Cripple Creek, Victor, Portland, and in Western Colorado, Camp Bird Mine, Tomboy and Lewis. She measured breathing in the men and women living there, and these are still the best and most complete measurements that have ever been made at Colorado's altitude. What did she find? For long term, indeed for all of life, it is oxygen that controls how much we breathe, and not carbon dioxide as had previously been thought. Her findings revolutionized how human breathing is controlled, and her findings have long been used to accurately predict how much air mountain climbers would need to breathe - even on the summit of Mount Everest. On the basis of her scientific work, she wanted to become a member of British scientific societies, but she couldn't, because she was a woman. But, as I will tell on April 12th, she had the last word and made her greatest contribution ... because she was a woman.

Jack's book is "Attitudes on Altitude" will be available for purchase, plus he'll sign copies

May 10, 2002

Election of candidates to the Old Colorado City Historical Society Board of Directors— please plan to attend and cast your vote and meet the new members of the Board.



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