



A new look at old history

ANZA'S 1779 CAMPAIGN THROUGH COLORADO CITY

By Dave Hughes

Three small books have been recently published which should interest everyone who is interested in the earliest history of our Pikes Peak region. They reveal new scholarship that



Governor de Anza"

revises what many of us thought were long settled issues about the famous 1779 campaign of Juan Batista de Anza, Governor of New Mexico, when he finally defeated the Comanche Chief Cuerno Verde south of today's Pueblo. They prove to my satisfaction, at least, that over 200 Spanish soldiers with their 400 Ute and Apache allies marched right down Ute Pass on August 31st, 1779 and fought their first engagement with the rear echelon of the Comanche warrior band right in what was about to be named Confluence Park in downtown Colorado Springs!

The most recent book is 'Anza and Cuerno Verde: Decisive Battle' by Dr. Wilfred Martinez, in which he carefully tracks the 615 mile, 26 day march of Anza as he outflanked unsuspecting Cuerno Verde who long had been raid-

ing Santa Fe and the Spanish settlements of northern New Mexico with impunity. Anza descended on him from the north, rather than trying to chase him over the Sangre de Cristo, which earlier governors had done, before the final and decisive battle Sept 3rd south of Pueblo.

Martinez book is impressive in that it meticulously reexamines the Anza journal, whose early forms of Spanish translated today, have led others to small - but cumulative - differences of opinion about places Anza marched, camped, and fought. Martinez concluded that the 'league' Anza reported daily, was in fact the distance a pack horse could walk in one hour - 3 miles, and not the more commonly accepted distance covered by marching men. Reason? Anza's entire Army traveled on horseback, none were on foot.

This measurement, coupled with Martinez' brilliant decision to plot the places Anza camped, or fought, counting backward the number of leagues Anza reported in his journal from the recorded time and date he crossed the Arkansas River rather than measure forward over the 300 mile march from the present Santa Fe, New Mexico, led him to the more militarily logical conclusions that Anza' Army descended Ute Pass, camped near Cascade, and encountered the Comanche large rear encampment at the confluence of Fountain and Monument Creeks, rather than coming down the rugged terrain south of Pikes

Continued on page 3

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
	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
January 11, 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

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

Peak, which earlier writers contended.

Knowing something about military matters, the southern Colorado mountains and the condition of early Ute Pass, as a Colorado City historian, I find no fault with Martinez placing the very important governor-general Juan Batista de Anza, the Comanche encampment, and one of the little appreciated but very defining military engagements right in the heart of Pikes Peak Country.

Anza captured 500 horses and took 34 prisoners in the first battle. Of course anyone who has read about very early Spanish Colorado, knows the 'rest of the story' wherein Anza surprised Cuerno Verde with only 50 of his warriors and chiefs at the base of what is now called Greenhorn Mountain south of Pueblo. The Comanches were annihilated for their troubles - and relative peace with the Indians was assured the Spanish for nearly 100 more years - until the white men came with the Pikes Peak or Bust gold rush. Anza and Cuerno Verde: Decisive Battle, Wilfred O Martinez, Escarito Press, Pueblo, Colorado

The other two books, by Ron Kessler, lifelong resident and historian of the San Luis Valley, cover the same campaign as Martinez, but reinforce the historical tale from the lifetime of investigative personal field trips on the west side of El Valle, where Anza marched over 100 miles, south to north, over Poncha Pass and even across South Park where they killed buffalo for food before descending the Ute Pass. Kessler's first edition book 'Anza's 1779 Comanche Campaign' was published in 1994, and contains informative maps and photographs.

His second edition, much expanded in 2001, contains the complete Journal, in Spanish, as well as in English. It also updates his conclusions as to where Anza camped, and how he approached the top of Ute Pass. He agrees with Martinez. One of the maps is the famous 1779 map by don Bernardo Miera y Pacheco, a noted cartographer with Anza. He is the sixth great grandfather of Wilfred Martinez! Since Kessler has lived all his life on the West side of the San Luis Valley, through which Anza marched - to avoid alerting the Comanche that they were being outflanked - he has walked, ridden, studied, and thought about the exact path Anza took.

Anza's 1779 Comanche Campaign, 1st and 2d Editions, Adobe Village Press, Monte Vista, Colorado.

All three of these paper-bound books are available through the Old Colorado City Historical Society Book Store in the history center at 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs.

All of which brings us back to the point. These three books breathe new life into the little known and seldom celebrated direct Spanish influence in the Pikes Peak Region. Even our key names - Colorado, El Paso, came from the Spanish. And it was the Spanish who perfected and passed onto the Gringos who came from the moist east, how to irrigate to water the crops, and survive. It is not too much to say that except for the techniques learned from the Spanish who had been here 250 years before the Americans came, Colorado City would not have survived between 1862 and the founding of Colorado Springs in 1871, so dry and hard was the land. Anza's campaign that took his Army right through today's Colorado Springs while fighting a running battle was a major, unrecognized, local event. Hopefully these books will awaken a renewed interest in the real Spanish pioneering and exiting events by an extraordinary man, Juan Batista de Anza, who, after founded San Francisco even before King Philip Spain appointed him Governor of New Mexico. In California, Anza is a very celebrated man. Its time he be recognized locally.

Treasurer's Report

While this report is usually about the last month - November - since the newsletter is coming out the last week of December, I'll project where we are ending up the whole fiscal year of 2001.

November did fine, and at last we received the final \$3,690 grant payment from the State of Colorado's Historical Fund for the Guidebook, which added to our bottom lines. So we ended up November with a net gain of \$4,323.

The more exiting news is, however, that the Bed and Breakfast Tours we held on December 2nd, instead of doing as projected of 2,000, was such a success we netted nearly \$4,700! The 18 Bed and Breakfast owners really came through for us. We owe them a big thanks!

Together with all the receipts and bills I have processed through December 15th, it looks like we will end 2001 with nearly \$25,000 in liquid assets. While still having \$61,000 in our Endowment Fund. Its been a good year!

I will have a longer analyses of our 2001 finances in the January newsletter.

Dave Hughes Treasurer

THANKS TO ALL THE SOCIETY MEMBERS WHO PROVIDED SO MUCH VOLUNTEER HELP AND ALL THE CAKES AND COOKIES AND DECORATIONS FOR THE BED AND BREAKFAST TOURS DECEMBER 2D. AND OF COURSE WE THANK THE 18 B&Bs WHICH MADE THIS YEARS TOUR SUCH A SPECTACULAR SUCCESS.

BETTY BAKER AND THE B&B TOUR COMMITTEE

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

compiled by Jan Knox

COLORADO CITY

One of the Best, Most Enterprising
and Progressive Cities of the State

Colorado Springs Gazette

January 1, 1902

transcribed by Jan Knox

If one were to ask what were the two most important events in the history of Colorado City, undoubtedly the answer would be, first, the location of the capital, then for a brief period in the territorial days and, second, the completion of the Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek District railroad. The former event was but a temporary honor to be soon taken away and there remains now nothing but a small log cabin with a history, but the opening of the Short Line, which took place in March of the past year, marks a new era in the commercial life of the town, the importance of which will play a great part in the future growth and prosperity of the city. Even before the completion of the road, it has brought about the erection of two enormous reduction plants. It has made it possible for Colorado City to become one of the greatest milling centers of the land. Previous to the construction of the road, the Colorado-Philadelphia had been in successful operation for some time. When the projection of the Short Line became an assured fact, extensions were added to this smelter until now it has a capacity of 300 tons per day of 24 hours. In close proximity to this mill and under the same control and management has been constructed the Standard plant. The latter was completed the first of March of the past year. It is constructed in the latest and most approved manner and has a capacity of 400 tons per day; and is as nearly automatic in the handling of the ore as possible. The motive power throughout the works is electricity, furnished by the Colorado Springs Electric company's enormous plant recently built some six miles away, near the coal mines. A tour through the Standard works is interesting to the layman; to the metallurgist it is a treat. In May of the past year, a mining expert came all the way from Alaska to visit this plant in connection with other chlorination works of Colorado, to learn here the method of the treatment of ores. The construction of this mill

involved an expenditure of about three-quarters of a million dollars.

The Mining Investor, in its issue of March 11th of the past year, in speaking of the completion of the plant said: "It is doubtful if any other city of four times the size of Colorado Springs ever had four millions of dollars become profitable at one time. Any one of these three institutions, the railroad, the power station or the new mill, affords abundant material for a long interesting comment." With the completion of the Standard plant, which is one of the works of the United States Reduction and Refining company, the output from all the plants should be from \$7,000,000 to \$9,000,000 per annum. The plants of this company handle over one-fourth of the total output of the entire Cripple Creek district.

Another notable enterprise brought to Colorado City by the completed and put in service about the middle of the summer. An extended account of this institution will appear at length in another article in this issue of the Gazette. When the two new building of the Short Line is the erecting of the Portland mill. The Portland Gold Mining company is one of the large owners of the railroad's bonds, and the location of a mill along the route of the new road is a natural result. This plant has been in the process of erection for quite a while and in a couple of months more it will be completed and will have the capacity of treating 300 tons of ore per day — the product of the output from the great Portland mine. The works are constructed of steel and its equipment is up-to-date to every particular. The motive power will be furnished by the same electric plant that drives the Standard. The mill is so constructed that another unit may be added to its capacity when the mines output will require a larger mill.

Besides these two new plants, the Telluride company is a plant just west of the city limits of Colorado City. The work has been started and progressing nicely and it is estimated that this plant will be w plants now being erected are put in operation. total mill capacity of the combined mills of Colorado City will be 1,200 tons of ore a day. This will give Colorado City great importance in the mill centers of the West. All these additions have been directly brought about by the completion of

continued on page 6

This article is reprinted from **The Red Rock Rag** and is reprinted with the permission of Don Ellis the author.

The 26th. Street Landfill

On May 18, 1970 John S. Bock requested a zoning change for 7.34 acres of his land for the purpose of creating a landfill in Gypsum Canyon. One month later, after the zoning change was approved by the Board of County Commissioners, he requested Board of Adjustment approval for the landfill and received approval with the condition that his petition was to be granted on a year-to-year renewal basis.

At the time, news reports indicated Mr. Bock's intention to fill the canyon to create a site for a golf course.

The Gypsum Canyon landfill was originally operated by C&L Sanitation Company and then by Nick and Tom Pinello who operated the business under several business names including Pinello Construction, Nick Pinello & Sons, and Solid Waste Management, Inc. Colorado Department of Health inspection reports indicate that the landfill was generally a well run operation. However, during its first few years of operation there were complaints about blowing trash as well as "several" fires which were all contained within the landfill site. By 1980, the Pinello operation had undertaken daily policing of 26th. Street and Lower Gold Camp Road to pick up trash, and had enlisted the aid of church and Boy Scout groups to collect trash which had blown outside the landfill area.

In January 1973, Mr. Bock requested a zoning change for 56 additional acres and an 8 acre increase in the size of the landfill. Then in September 1973, he requested a zoning change and landfill approval for an additional 2.55 acres. All of these requests were approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The 1973 expansions brought the approved size for the landfill to 17.89 acres and the area rezoned to 65.89 acres.

In January 1981 the Board of County Commissioners gave conditional approval to John S. Bock and Solid Waste Management, Inc. for a 25 acre increase in the size of the landfill, which extended the landfill site north to the confluence of

Gypsum Canyon with Red Rock Canyon. The request for this 25 acre expansion was subject to extensive review and engineering study. Approval was for five years of operation and was later extended for one additional year.

The Board of County Commissioners Resolution approving the expansion stated that, "... the proposed solid waste disposal site is in the best interest of the health, safety, morals, convenience, order, prosperity and welfare of the citizens of El Paso County."

In August 1986 the landfill stopped accepting waste, and a final closure plan was approved by the Colorado Department of Health on October 7, 1987. The closure plan called for monitoring of the landfill for methane and monitoring for water contamination for a period of four years. Water monitoring was at wells down canyon from the landfill and in the Bock lakes.

The landfill site had become the most extensive remnant of human activity in the Red Rock Canyon area, dwarfing the stone quarries of a century ago. The accompanying Figures show the original topography of the landfill site and the topography after the closure of the landfill. The original pre-landfill topography is 1961 topographic information from the USGS Manitou Springs 7.5 minute Quadrangle. Post-closure topography of the landfill site was sketched from Colorado Springs Utilities maps. It is noteworthy that the western portion of the landfill encroaches on approximately 8 acres of Section 16.

In his letter supporting the 25 acre expansion, John S. Bock gave a list of reasons for the landfill, including: "Land is not suitable for development as a deep canyon exists but has good potential when filled, ... we anticipate the land will be developed at some point in time to a very accreditable (sic) development, and that the Landfill area will probably be part of a very fine golf course and recreation area." And, "The Landfill also helps pay our taxes."

The material placed in the landfill was not compacted; and a 1980 engineering report by Lincoln DeVore states that, "... unless used as open space or recreation land, future development is usually limited to golf courses, parks, etc. Any structures placed on the filled area would eventually sustain

continued on page 7

the new road. It is seen that with the location of the mills and the strong possibility of others being placed here in the near future as the great mines of Cripple Creek become further developed, Colorado City is destined to be most prosperous in the years to come.

Aside from its milling interests, the city has rapidly become of importance as a railroad center. The completion of the Short Line made the third railroad for the town, and with the aid of the Colorado Midland and the Denver and Rio Grande with their connections, the city is given excellent transportation facilities. Elsewhere in this issue of the Gazette is an article relating to the promotion, commencement and construction of the new road; but its vital importance to Colorado City must be here spoken of. To Colorado City it means prosperity. Already the town is beginning to throng with men who have obtained employment at the smelters, on the railroads and in the construction of the two new plants. The very active movements in real estate circles and the great amount of building has been directly attributed to the opening of this new railway. The records show that there has been a greater number of transfers of real estate than at any other period in the history of the town. Large numbers of people will be attracted to Colorado City by the Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek District railway and it will open up the avenues of other industries and enterprises.

Many people who heretofore were compelled to live in Cripple Creek for business reasons are now making their homes in Colorado City and the vicinity because now they may go to the camp in the morning, attend to business and return to their families by night. Cripple Creek will not be the loser on this account as many people are being attracted to the gold camp. A new enterprise which brings an amount of one million dollars to a community from its operation, means much ready cash for the working class.

Colorado City has one of the best railroad repair shops in the west. Some three years ago, the old shops of the Midland road were destroyed by fire. They were rebuilt in the same locality on the south side of the tracks on a larger scale. There may be seen in these shops, under construction, all portions of the locomotive. It is most probable that the repair shops of the Short Line will be located here.

The institutions of shops, railroads and reduction works causes the monthly pay roll to amount to many thousand dollars and this free circulation of money makes the retail trade brisk and active. One who visits Colorado City after the absence of a year, recognizes many changes. He is much impressed with the number of new homes that have been built. The whole section north of Colorado Avenue is becoming thickly built, with up-to-date residences and spick-and-span cottages, surrounded with neat lawns and grass plots. The building lots in this desirable business section have advanced anywhere from 10 to 50 per cent in value over what they were some 12 months ago. In the business section of the town, a large two-story brick business block has been erected, which is quite an improvement in many respects.

In the past year, a bank was established and is doing a satisfactory business. During the past month, all forms of gam-

bling have been stopped. The measures taken to rid the town of this disturbing vice have been so complete that all the knights of the cloth have packed up and gone to other fields for good, never to return.

Located as it is, with Manitou to the western limit and Colorado Springs on the eastern, it thus has a delightful summer resort close at hand where its population can find much elevating recreation and pleasure, and a modern, vigorous metropolis in the Springs full of interest and attraction. Men coming here find employment in the industries and as the disbursements from the mills increase they may avail themselves of many chances of promotion.

Here they may make happy homes for their families, gathering about them all the comforts of life. As an established industrial center, Colorado City offers tempting results not only to the capitalist, but to the enterprising young man who counts upon giving a good account of his time and talents in a not far away future.

Under the laws of the state of Colorado, it is a city of the second class. It is excellently governed by Mayor J. D. Faulkner and a body of carefully selected aldermen, who ever strive for the best interests of the city. The climate is everything that can be desired. The town is modern, clean and healthful, having all the conveniences of gas, electricity, telephone, electric cars and all that appertains to comfort. The sewerage of the place which covers the business and a large part of the residence portion, was accomplished without putting the city in debt; it is now practically paid for and the city has a very small debt. The streets are well kept and nicely graded; and the irrigation ditches on either side perform the two-fold duty of watering the shade trees and cleaning the gutters. Colorado City has cause for just pride in the matter of water supply, which is abundant and absolutely pure. It is gathered high up in the mountains far above any contamination. This is one of the important and vital factors of the city that will ever insure health to its citizens. The supply is brought to the city by gravity with no cost except in the first laying of the mains. The pressure on the pipes is sufficient to throw a large volume of water over any building in the city in the case of fire.

Moral and education life is well represented in Colorado City. The leading denominations are well represented, there being six churches within the limits of the city beside numerous others close at hand in Colorado Springs. The Methodist Episcopal church has the distinction of being the oldest, having been established in 1860, when the place was nothing more than a frontier settlement.

The Protestant Episcopal church, located on Third and Jefferson avenues, is probably the next in order of establishment. This parish was organized in 1887 by Rev. A. R. Keiffer, who at that time was the rector of the church in Colorado Springs. It was for a long while a missionary church but now owns its own house of worship and has a regular minister.

The Baptist church, located on Lincoln avenue, has a large and prosperous congregation and probably has the largest membership of any church in the city.

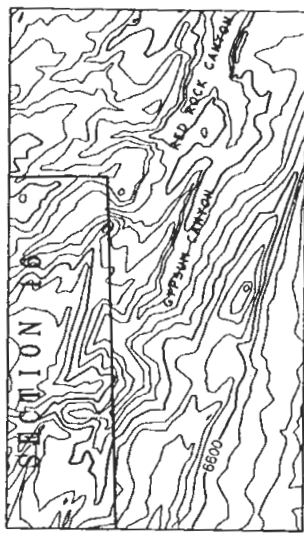
The Christian church is a young and vigorous organization.

continued on page 7

structural distress of an intolerable magnitude.”

Another 1980 report by County Senior Planner John Manus commented on the fact that the landfill had dammed Gypsum Canyon just downstream from Section 16: “A notable (sic) point in regards to the landfill is a parcel of land lying west of the landfill which is owned by the County Parks Department. Due to the fact that this parcel is also a portion of the canyon that was filled this piece of property sits 95 or more feet below the present elevation of the landfill turning this property into a natural drainage pit. Information was stated at the time of approval of the (1973) expansion of the landfill that this situation would be created. It appears that unless this property is also filled that no reasonable access or use of this property can be expected.”

If this “natural drainage pit” was completely filled with water, it would become a 20 acre lake in Section 16 containing over 600 acre feet of water. Since the drainage basin is only about 200 acres, this would require 35 inches of runoff which could be obtained only from a deluge of nearly Biblical proportions. In the extremely wet Spring of 1999, the water level behind the landfill was close to 30 feet, at which point the landfill had impounded somewhat less than 25 acre feet of water in lake of nearly 2 acres.



Topography of Gypsum Canyon area prior to landfill



Landfill area topography after landfill closure

Westside Memories cnt'd

Its present situation was only secured about four years ago and there has been erected a neat and comfortable building in which to hold services. Before the completion of the present church, the congregation held its services in tents pitched on Lincoln avenue.

The Roman Catholic church is another one of the most prosperous organizations of the city. It owns its own grounds and building, situated on the south side of Main street.

During the past year, a new frame church has been erected on the north side of Colorado avenue which is very attractive and is much of an ornament to the city.

The spirit that has characterized the state of Colorado from its very beginning--to have an unexcelled common school system--is not lacking in Colorado City. Amid the many demands upon their time and attention, the loyal citizens of this busy town with their usual foresight have from the beginning paid considerable attention to the public schools, and the result today is that Colorado City has a school system that is most thorough and commendable. The interest in education has never lagged in the progress of the place, but has been abreast of the growth. There are two excellent school buildings, the Bancroft and the Ward. The former is the largest and is situated in the central portion of the town with ample grounds around it giving plenty of recreation ground for the children. The building is a two-story brick structure with red sandstone trimmings. Its massive architecture is very pleasing and it is the most imposing building in the city.

The Ward school has been recently built to relieve the congested situation of the Bancroft. This new addition to the school system is a model in sanitation and hygiene. One notable fact about its construction is the attention paid to the subject of ventilation.

The school board has been most particular and careful in the selection of the teachers to whom they have entrusted the education of the large number of children of the city. There is one peculiar and interesting fact concerning the children attending the schools and that is the large preponderance of boys over the number of girls.

Colorado City starts on a new year, commences on a new era in its history with brighter and more substantial prospects for larger growth and greater prosperity than ever before. To the capitalist as well as the employee, it present many opportunities. The great milling industry, the large railroad shops, the addition of the Cripple Creek road, the cheapness of fuel because of large coal mines close at hand and the natural advantages of healthful climate and pure water, are guarantees of the future development of the city.

Our Christmas season at the Center has been filled with activity. We decorated both inside and out this year. Our seventh Annual Holliday B&B tour was a smashing success. There were many home-made cookies, bars and sweet breads which were served at our Center. The Washington elementary School's children's Bell Choir entertained us with a charming Christmas program. Besides this we have had several private Christmas parties held here as well. Sow with these activities, we are going well into the New Year financially.

I wish you all a Happy and prosperous New Year

Bev Disch, President

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

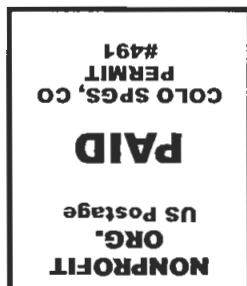
January 11, 2002--Dr. Wilfred O. Martinez, retired college professor and nationally known Hispanic genealogist, "Anza's 1779 Comanche Campaign and the Decisive Battle Between Governor of New Mexico, Juan Batista de Anza and Comanche Chief, Cuerno Verde"

February 8, 2002--Nadine Gilman, historian and O.C.C.H.S. member
"Shady Ladies of Southern Colorado"

March 8, 2002--Doris McCraw, well known historical actress and O.C.C.H.S. member, "Conversations with Dora" takes you on a trip in the 1800s to experience some of the Pikes Peak region's most colorful and fascinating characters

April 12, 2002--To be announced

May 10, 2002--Annual Meeting, election of Board of Directors, no speaker



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