



OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 6

June 2002

E-MAILED HISTORY

All of our History of Colorado City and the West Side does not come via live interviews, US paper Mail, or hard research! Some comes to us from afar by plain electronic mail! Here are five e-mail letters we received that are interesting fragments of History themselves. Who says the older generation is not 'online?'

Dear Old Colorado City,

I thought you might like to have this photo of my grandmother, Mollie Chisdes Golin, standing next to the prized automobile in front of my grandfather's store on old Colorado Avenue. The Golin Family lived in Colorado City from about 1909 until



about 1920, when they moved to Denver. My grandfather and grandmother came to Sugar City from Brooklyn in about 1907, bringing their then three daughters May (never married), Loretta (Gass), and Augusta (Meyer). Rosalie (Kobey) was born in Sugar City, and Betty Lou (Einstein) was born in Denver. Rosalie, 93, Augusta (98) and Betty Lou (80) survive to this day. May died in 2000 at 100+. Loretta died in 1983 at 83.

Sincerely,
Alan Golin Gass, FAIA

Reminiscences

Hello, I am Warren Johnson,

I just thought I would drop a line and thank all that have worked on the historical society for the West Side.

I grew up on the West Side, living at 2222 West Cucharras 2320 West Vermijo, also at 2432 West Platte, and 2008 Armstrong. This started back in the early 40's when we came from Missouri.

My father and I worked at Ripley the Florist's green house

on the 30 hundred block of Colorado Avenue in the late 40s and 50's. This is the old green house that is shown in many of the early pictures of Colorado City that show part of the old Midland Terminal railroad next to the creek. It is still there but has changed some. I was in it last year.

We did a lot of landscaping work for some of the older homes and lodges around Woodland Park and Cascade as well as the Broadmoor and Seven Falls. Dad worked for the El Colorado Lodge during the 50's. Dad also worked on the Midland Terminal Railroad for a while until they shut down operations. The old roundhouse became our playground after they closed. We would play follow the leader up in the Ceiling Beams over the roundhouse floor. Also we would skip school and go to the Red Rock Quarry south of the old Red Rock stables. This usually got us into trouble but that's Kid's for you.

I started school about 1944 at the Midland school, then went to Whittier, Buena Vista, West Junior, then Palmer high.

The building the Historical Society is in, was the old Bethany Baptist church. I was baptized there on Oct 5 1947, the Preacher was Reverend Mouseur (not sure of the spelling now). I still have the Bible they gave me at that time. Later they built the new church closer to downtown where it is now.

We used to go to dances at Bancroft Park in the summer. There would be a couple hundred people or more there with live bands playing. I worked for Douglas Jardine when they started the ground work for the Air Force Academy. I drove a dump truck at the time. Also when we lived on Platte the road didn't come off the hill to downtown like it does now. We would use boxes and cardboard in the winter to slide down the hill to town.

Also when I was in school there was a Piggly Wiggly's market on the corner of Colorado Avenue and 24th. It was on the west side of the street across from the now Chocolate Shop, which at that time 1950's was Osborne's drug store. They had a Soda fountain at that time and everyone used it as their ice cream shop. Also I remember there was a little lady who had a popcorn shop and used comic books in a very narrow shop just about 5 or 6 shops to the east of the drug store. We were there last June of 2001 and a lady runs it now with dolls and that type things in it. When we lived on Cucharras we lived right behind Blounts funeral home and I taught his daughter

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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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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	Beverly Disch	719-634-5023
Vice President	LaRue Ebersole	719-685-3265
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	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
September 13, 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

Summer Hours
(September – May)

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

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to ride the bicycle. Also while we lived on Cucharras the railroad still came down to the west side with the steam engines. They would pass in front of our house and then go out onto Cucharras at the 2300 block, going down the middle of the street on to the west side. They would drop off cars of lumber at the Gowans lumber company on 25th or 26th street. (I believe that was the right name) They had several 1949 and 1950 Ford cab-over trucks to deliver lumber, and all were painted white and very well kept.

Anyway I really want to thank all for helping keep the old town alive. It's funny how when you start to remember things you get a flood of memories. While we were there in 2001 we stopped to visit the Historical Building, part to see the old church and found many interesting things. So keep up the good work and Thanks again

Warren Johnson
5409 Colusa Way Sacramento, Ca.95841
warrenuj@msnmail.com

Long Ago Marriage

Subject: Marriage info old
Great web sight! Trying to find information on a very early marriage to have taken place in Colorado City either November 17 1859 or 1861 between Susan Standish and Marshall Cook. Throughout her life the story is she was one of the first marriages in Colorado.

Marshall Cook was early into Colorado 1859; first prosecuting attorney, Arapahoe County, founder of Arapahoe Township.

Can you give me any ideas how to find out marriage info on them? We will be visiting your area in late May for vacation and family history work.

Thank you very much
Susan Benton
Kirkland, Washington
They are my Great Great Great Grandparents

Cy's of Old

To: history@oldecolo.com
Subject: Cy's
Hi. I'm an old "West Sider" from 1960-65. While my personal stay in COS was brief (my folks retired there in 1960 and stayed until 1972), I still consider the Springs my "home" after attending West Junior and graduating from Palmer. Many of my friends remain there and I get back yearly for a visit. One of my best friends, Richard Mohl, is the son of two COS business pioneers: Leo and Hedda Mohl.

Certainly, one of my youthful highlights was working for Cy and Bert Long at Cy's Drive In from 1961 until 1964. I remember the cars parked around the stand 3-4 rows deep in the summer and the spill over "tourists" we'd get from Clark's next door. I also recall the friendly rivalry that existed between Cy and the owner of Jones' Drive In across the lot. To many of us, Cy and Bert were second parents and if they took a liking to you, they were great people to work for. Cy could be hard on anyone during their "break-

in" period (he once threw a block of American cheese at me because I flipped a hamburger patty on the floor!) but he was a great boss to work for. But Bert ran the show. I remember one night she lost her temper at someone who was revving their engine in the lot and after she was done yelling, the individual left without argument and didn't come back for several weeks. I remember a long line of kids my age ran through the ranks of Cy's in the 60's and I'm sure all of us are better because of it.

If you have any pictures that show Cy's as it used to be, is there a chance they'll be posted?

Thanks for a great web site and while I miss the old West Side and Colorado City, I'm thankful that folks saw the need to preserve a great part of the city. Thanks to you for your hard work!

Joel Genung
(Former Kitchen Maid Bakery donut salesman, former Cy's Drive In employee and former camera operator with KRDO TV but soon to be retired American Airlines employee)
Spirited Woman

From: Don Skinner <deskinner@kc.rr.com>
To: history@oldecolo.com
Subject: Walking up Pike's Peak in 1905
Sir or Madam,

My grandmother, Ida Stemmons Graves, always told us that she walked up Pike's Peak as a young woman. In researching her history I found a corroborating account which I am sending along to you for whatever interest it might be. Her name was Ida Stemmons and she spent the summer of 1905 visiting her brother Frank Stemmons, an assayer) in Colorado City. Ida lived in Golden City, Missouri and the newspaper item is from Golden City. Here's the item.

Miss Ida Stemmons, while visiting her brother Frank Stemmons in Colorado City, Colorado, made up her mind to walk to the top of the Peak. A company of about 150 started at 5 p.m. and arrived at 4:20 next morning.

About 100 of them reached the top, of which she was one of the number. The 50 fell by the wayside. Miss Ida has spent 8 weeks in Colorado sight seeing and expects to return home in a few days. August 24, 1905 Golden City, MO Free Press

Miss Ida Stemmons returned Tuesday from Fowler, Colorado where she had been visiting her brother Frank. August 24, 1905 Golden City, MO Free Press

My grandmother was born in 1875 and died in the 1970s at the age of 102 I regret that I didn't ask her more about her Colorado adventure. At the time she made this hike she was unmarried.

I'd very much like to know if it was common place for that many people to walk up Pike's Peak. If you have any information about that, as well as probably routes (the road?) I'd be interested in knowing more.

Also, can you tell me how I might go about tracing Ida's brother, Frank, who moved to Colorado City in 1903? He initially had a job with a wholesale grocery company, but in his later life he was an assayer.

Best Regards,
Don Skinner 8800 Norwood Leawood, KS 66206

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

compiled by Jan Knox

One Hundred Years Ago

May 1902

Colorado Springs Gazette (mostly from Colorado City notes)

Mrs. P. C. Paddock, who lives on Jefferson avenue, near Tenth street, yesterday morning started to build a fire, and unaware of the fact that there had been a lot of kerosene thrown into the stove by another party previous to her efforts, she lighted a piece of paper and applied it to the combustibles which were in the stove. Result: A big blaze, a badly scared woman, and some burns which have not as yet resulted seriously. All concerned consider that it was a narrow and most lucky escape. 5/2

Those people who were awakened Wednesday night by the whistles and other fire alarms, will be interested to know that it was only a false alarm, caused by two alarm wires getting crossed. 5/2

The irrigation ditch broke loose in the west part of the city early yesterday morning and for almost the entire day everything was under water. The residents in that vicinity were caused considerable inconvenience, but no material damage was done. 5/4

At the Baptist church, Fourth and Lincoln, there will be morning and evening services today by E. Duncan Lamont, pastor, subject, morning "Excusing Ourselves" and evening "A Great Woman." All cordially invited. 5/4

Articles of incorporation were filed yesterday for the Colorado City Business Men's club. The incorporators are: John C. McDowell, J. W. Livingston and J. S. Lyne. These with H. J. Meagher and Lora Davis compose the directorate. The objects of the incorporation are to provide amusement for its members and to get up entertainments, etc. It is stated in the articles that it exists in no way for profit, and there is no stated capitalization. 5/4

First Street, one of the nicest residence streets of Colorado City, has been extended through the Rustic Home Addition No. 2, and an iron bridge has just been put across Fountain creek to connect with the road running to the Colorado Midland shops and the Telluride mill. 5/4

Colorado City has one of the most thoroughly organized chambers of commerce which is to be found west of the Mississippi in a city of this size, and the committees in charge of the various matters of detail connected with its work are chose for their fitness for the matters in hand. There are nearly a hundred members, composed of all the leading business men of the city 5/4

Superintendent Macaffree stated yesterday that cars would be run to Cheyenne canon today over the new route and that a 10-minute schedule had been determined upon, in view of the heavy travel last Sunday. Arrangements have also been

made so that if it is necessary in order to accommodate the people, cars can be run in the busiest parts of the day, so that there will be a car to the park at the end of the line every five minutes. On the old line via Broadmoor there will be a half-hour service. 5/4

Major William Wagner, the first mayor of Colorado Springs, died at his home in Short Hills, Essex county, New Jersey, yesterday morning. A message announcing the death was received by Henry A. Wagner of the El Paso bank, who is a brother of the deceased and who came to this city about 1870. H. A. Wagner is also the treasurer of the Pike's Peak club and he has the kindly sympathy not only of his business associates, but of his club mates in his bereavement. Major Wagner served in the Fifteenth Pennsylvania cavalry, under General William J. Palmer (then Colonel.) 5/4

Handsome cards have been issued by the Colorado Midland railway advertising the Wildflower excursions which will be run by the road every Thursday through the summer. The cards are of artistic design, giving a beautifully colored representation of the state flower, the columbine, and presenting a mountain scene in Eleven-mile Granite canon, through which the excursion train passes. The charge made for the 100-mile trip through the mountains is \$1.50, and large numbers of people take the trips every year. 5/6

It has been decided by the management of the Short Line to run wild flower excursions every week during the summer season. The proposed excursions are to be run every Thursday morning and will take pleasure-seekers to Rosemont, the trip being planned to take in some of the best scenic features of the road as well as the gathering of wild flowers. A fare of 50 cents for the round trip will be charged. It is impossible as yet to set a date when the first excursion will be run, but the management announces that the first trip will be made as soon as the advancement of the season justifies it. 5/8

New observation cars have been received by the Midland road and have already been put into service. The cars were constructed by the Pullman company and have a capacity of about 75 people. They are handsomely finished within and without and have a large, open observation platform on the rear. Their first run was made on Wednesday and they will hereafter run daily between Colorado Springs and Grand Junction, which is the western terminus of the road. 5/11

Cars are now running through the town of Manitou all the way to the soda spring, the first car being run on the line, which has been newly relaid with the heavy 65-pound rails, yesterday morning. As was announced in these columns, several days ago would be the case when the Manitou line was finished, work was yesterday begun on the relaying of the track from West Colorado Springs to the Manitou end of the line. Gangs of men are working from each end of the line, and it will be

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From the Bookstore

By Agnes Johnson



Four-Legged Legends by Gayle C. Shirley, contains thirteen true tales of the various lives of our 4-legged animals. All of these happenings occurred in Colorado.

The first story titled "Tall Bull Battle Trophy" describes the plans of the Fifth Cavalry to rescue two white prisoners from Tall Bull and his band of Cheyenne warriors.

William F. Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill, was hired as a guide and to provide food for the soldiers. The Indians had camped at an oasis called Summit Springs in northeastern Colorado.

However, Cody was more interested in Tall Bull's horse and plotted to kill Tall Bull. Whether he or another soldier killed the warrior is not clear. Still he gained custody of the horse and the horse became known as the "fastest steed west of the Mississippi."

After some time, Cody, desperate for money, sold Tall Bull's horse. During his many ventures and Wild West shows he owned many other horses. One was known as Brigham, who was bought from an Indian and named for Brigham Young. He used this horse to kill 4,280 buffalo in eight months to feed men laying rails for the Kansas Pacific Railroad.

Once again necessity forced him to sell Brigham. Later he bought Powder Face. Others included Charlie, Tucker, Duke and Buckskin Joe. All these horses were white.

On January 17, 1917, Cody was laid to rest on Lookout Mountain, west of Denver. Wearing an empty saddle, a white horse accompanied the body to the grave.

There is a story of Old Mose, a huge bear noted as a man-killer.

During his long life, it was alleged that he had killed 800 head of livestock and three men. For more than two decades Old Mose was hunted. Every kind of trap, pit or device they tried, Old Mose outsmarted them.

You'll want to read what ruse they finally used to kill him. Because they thought he was very intelligent, they saved his brain and after sending it to a laboratory in California, it finally was housed with Dr. Ellsworth Lancaster, a specialist in neuro-anatomy at Colorado College. He was amazed at how small the brain really was! It weighed only 15 ounces! The bear wasn't intelligent but had a keen sense of smell and was cunning.

One of my summer jobs was being custodian of the museum at Palmer Hall. I wish I'd known this story. I would have looked for Old Mose's brain--if it was there.

The blue whale hung from the ceiling, I think all of four people showed up that summer to see it, but it paid my tuition for one semester--\$100.00. This was the height of the depression--1934.

People interested in the history of the mining camps are probably familiar with the story of "Prunes, the Prospector's Partner." Burros were used in the mines and many packed all the tools for a prospector, on his lonely search

for gold. Ralph C. Taylor from the Pueblo Chieftain wrote on April 9, 1978, "The history of Colorado is punctuated with anecdotes about burros and mules. They, not dogs, were the pioneer's best friends. They shared life, and between beast and man, there was a devotion and understanding that enabled both to survive on the frontier."

This tale is a heartwarming story of the relationship of Rupert Sherwood and his burro called Prunes. All the inhabitants of Fairplay and Alma knew Prunes for when Rupert would leave the animal to head for warmer climes, the people and especially the children, would answer his knock on the back steps of their dwelling, and provide Prunes with tidbits of food. Flap-jacks were his favorite and in appreciation, he would emit a hearty hee-haw.

During one very severe winter, while Rupert was away, Prunes sought shelter in an old shed. Unfortunately, the wind blew so hard it locked the door, so Prunes was imprisoned. By the time the storm had subsided, and people began to wonder where Prunes was, and started searching for him, children found him in the shed. They fed him his favorite flap-jacks and he survived until Rupert returned. Rupert wept when he saw the condition of Prunes, who had welcomed him with a weak hee-haw. A meeting was held by the miners and they came to the conclusion that it was time to do the humane thing. Newspapers all over the state told his story for Prunes had already become a legend. However, the body was taken to the dump!

Townpeople were upset at his type of disposal, so he was removed and buried behind the monument erected in his honor. The monument still stands today on a street in Fairplay.

All was in place and Rupert wrote and read a poem he had written to honor his faithful companion at the ceremony.

Prunes died in 1930 and it wasn't until December, 1969, that a reporter from the Golden Colorado Transcript wrote a "page-one" article declaring "the hoax of Prunes the burro." He wrote that it was a scheme of Sherwood and others to "attract tourists to the struggling town of Fairplay."

You read the story and decide.

There is a tale of Skipper, a dog of one of the War Veterans. Did you know that Benjamin Franklin in 1775 proposed using dogs to warn of Indian attacks? That dogs were not used by U. S. military forces until World War II? By 1941, the Japanese military had 25,000 and Germany had 200,000! Read about the organization called Dogs for Defense and its contribution to the war effort.

Football fans probably know about Colorado University's Ralphie. A freshman student from Lubbock, Texas, sparked the idea of a live mascot. His father paid \$150.00 to a Colorado rancher for Ralphie, who was five months old, and donated him to C.U. Ralphie attended every home game for thirteen years.

So many more wonderful stories are told in this book. There are also five illustrations at the beginning of each tale, by John Potter.

An interesting and entertaining book and a look into peoples' attachment to animals and the faithful companions, with a few exceptions.

You'll be entertained by the following: "Hambone: Jumping Fool," "Snippy, Headless Hoax?," "Yogi, Super Sleuth" and others.

I was a bit disappointed that a cat was not included. I have one called Tiger, who at the moment is trying to help me write this, by sitting on the tablet and swatting his paw at my pen. Do you have a story you could share about your pet?

Events Coordinator's Corner



Saturday, May 4th, the Old Colorado City History Center was filled with women, children, and even a couple men, who came to attend the **1st Annual Victorian Tea & Victorian Fashion Show!**

Brilliant white linens (donated by local West Side Merchant, SnoWhite Linens) adorned the round tables set for tea. Antique snack trays, Tea Napkins, Take Home Gift Packets, and Floral Arrangements decorated each (all donated by West Side Merchant, Bernideen's). A delicious buffet table was set up in the book store and awaited the anxious Tea crowd. The Food Designers (another local West Side Merchant) donated a variety of tea sandwiches, scones, clotted cream & jam, cookies, lemon tarts & chocolate pastry! Hot Teas & Cold Teas were provided by Bernideen's and served by volunteers. Karla Hefferan, Val Maslowski, Pat Fejedelem, The Unsinkable Molly Brown & others! Harpist, Kathleen Winkler, played background music as people entered & the Tea started. Some attendees even came in Victorian Attire & added to the festive Mood!

Rita Wilhelm, Seasons Past Historic Clothing & Costume Shop and the Victorian Heritage Society Models, presented a wonderful narrative & fashion show on the fashions of the Victorian Era. We were very pleased to see Channel 5/30 appear during the Fashion Show - we made the evening news! Door prizes were given away as the tea ended (also donated by Bernideen's). Many of the floral table arrangements, were purchased contributing another \$75 to the Events proceeds.

The 1st Annual Victorian Tea & Victorian Fashion Show was truly a great success bringing in approximately \$1,200! All available seating was sold; we could have sold additional tickets if space had allowed. Beverly Disch began the Tea with a Welcome and Invitation to consider the OCCHS Center for Special Events & for membership. The Tea served as an opportunity to show the community what a great site the Center is for events as many who attended were not currently members.

We again thank all the local merchants who made this event possible by their very generous donations! And everyone who worked so hard setting up, tearing down & and sharing the day! A Great Success & Lots of Fun...mark your calendars and be sure to attend next year!

June Special Event Schedule:

Plan To Attend - June 29th, "Old Fashioned Day in the Park" Bancroft Park Saturday Afternoon! Remember how it used to be, only now it's easier! Just come & we'll provide the Old Fashioned Fun Filled Activities &

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 your 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 first part of the summer.

Box Lunch too! Ticket \$15 - Advance Purchase (need to know count for lunch). Includes food, drink, activities & prizes. A true Old Fashioned Day in the Park. Come play and support OCCHS in a fun June Event!

WSM contd

rushed to completion. 5/11 *(The Society has a large picture of the relaying of the rails on Colorado avenue. jck)*

In response to the invitation, which was broadcast over the city, about 1,500 people yesterday afternoon went to the Union Printers home to attend the informal reception which was held between the hours of 3 and 5 o'clock. The occasion was the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the dedication of the home. 5/14

It is stated on good authority that Mr. W. S. Stratton has recently completed the purchase of the Brookside water system. The price paid for the water rights contained in the system is not given out. The Brookside system supplies Brookside and Ivywild and is valuable. Connected with it are nearly all the water rights of North and South Cheyenne creeks. The Broadmoor Water company owns some rights in these creeks but the Brookside system has most of the rights. These rights just acquired by Mr. Stratton were offered to the city last spring for \$90,000. 5/16