



# HEARTS OF GOLD ?

Colorado Painted Ladies:  
Who and Why  
By  
Nadine Gilman

In the heyday of the mining boom the environment that produced widespread prostitution in Colorado and the American west can be attributed to two major factors: the massive influx of lonely, hard-working men and equally lonely, business oriented women. Most of the men were young, single and unafraid to challenge the icy rivers and daunting mountains as they sought gold and silver. The women were equally undaunted, only they dug for the gold and silver in a different manner more conducive to their abilities.



Lillian Powers a genteel portrait

half of course represented the soiled doves, ladies of the evening, fallen woman, members of the frail sisterhood, the demimonde.

The Victorian ideals of women/sex fostered eco-

nomie. Leadville, altitude 10,152 feet, can be used as a good example of this influx.

In the 1880 census, Leadville's population of 23,000 (1980 census 2,629) included 18,000 males and 5,000 women, only half of whom were reportedly respectable. The other

half of course represented the soiled doves, ladies of the evening, fallen woman, members of the frail sisterhood, the demimonde. The Victorian ideals of women/sex fostered economic necessity. Because women were expected to marry, have children and manage households, society in general restricted educational and employment opportunities for them. For the unfortunate unmarried ladies, a few respectable possibilities existed, such as: domestic servant, laundress, dress-maker, factory/mill work, all for \$1.00 per day. Schoolteachers earned less than \$5.00 a week.

Ninety-eight per cent of the prostitutes were young with an average age of 23 and unmarried. Circumstances varied, and they could have been divorced, widowed or abandoned. Many were poor, and of course most uneducated.

There were three types of prostitutes:

- The crib girls were the lowest in status due to their lack of desirability, income generated and location in town. Self-employed, these women had unique advertising methods. Business cards and tokens were widely distributed and were extremely bawdy in nature. Today the tokens are sought-after collector's items.
- The dance hall girls, whether or not they practiced prostitution, were considered such. Movies about the Old West show the staircase leading to the second floor of the saloon, presumably for the use of the girls and their "clients." This staircase may have been used by a few, however most were entertainers and drink pushers, b-girls, as it were.
- At the top of the prostitution echelon were the

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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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 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
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	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**  
**MARCH 8, 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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brothels; gold mines, if you will pardon the pun, not for the women who worked in them, but for the women who ran them. The "madams" were the CEO's of their era. They were large property owners, managers, procurers and politicians rolled into fancy dresses.

One non-respectable "lady", Red Stockings, at the close of one year gave a banquet for her clientele and told them she had made enough money and had had enough good times – she was leaving Leadville. She left with 100,000 dollars.

When you could maintain a stable of horses, be buried in an \$800 Paris gown, or have the City Council build you an easier access bridge to your house of ill repute, like Trinidad's Madam Mac Phelps did, you know business was GOOD.

Fledgling mining towns knew they were in for good times, (take that as you will,) when they saw the painted ladies step off the stage.

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THE COUNTY SCHOOLS  
*Colorado Springs Gazette*  
 February 20, 1875  
 abstracted by Jan Knox

The Rev. F. C. Millington, County School Superintendent, has just made the second apportionment to the treasurers of the different school districts. The first was made in January last, but the School Tax was not nearly all collected, and, as the Districts were in much need of money, the second apportionment has been made after a very short interval.

The following is the amount distributed to the different Districts:  
 District No. 1, Colorado City--O. L. Matthews and Miss Everhart, Teachers; \$231.60.  
 District No. 1, Dorr's District, three miles south of Colorado Springs--Mrs. Merrill, Teacher, \$74.37. District No. 3, Widefield--Miss Lovina Scott, Teacher; \$70.12. District No. 4, Five miles south of Fountian--W. H. Muir, Teacher; \$34.00 District No. 5,

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### From President Disch

Many things are going on at our Center. We had a Potato Bar dinner to honor our B&B's for our successful Christmas tour and to recognize all our dedicated volunteers who keep our place running.

Pat Fedjelem our events coordinator is interviewing caterers and prospective users of our facility. She is planning a number of events. Cyndy Estes has been working on a plan for accessioning our artifacts and archives. We are searching for a part-time archivist, and we will be interviewing Professor Olsen, archivist of New Mexico University, as he is interested in locating here.

Jack Patterson is chair of our Oral History Committee. If you know of older people who should be recorded, please, contact him.

We are working on increasing our membership. Membership is very important because our members support our Center financially. Pick up a membership form from our bookstore. Sadly, we have started a Memorial Fund for John Evans, Betsy's husband. If you wish to contribute, a form is on the bookstore counter.

Bev Disch, El Presidentè

### Treasurer's Report

In the month of January several things of interest happened.

Your board reached agreement with Old Colorado City Associates, and for not holding Craft Sales all summer, except for Founders Day Weekend, they donated \$4,000 cash to our Society. Its in the bank.

Our \$61,000 CD matured. Interest rates are so lousy now, rather than commit ourselves to a year's low interest CD, we put the funds into a bank savings account until a local CD advertises a good interest rate.

When we go for that, we will have raised our Endowment to \$65,000 - from our surplus last year.

We renewed our Director's Liability Insurance of \$1 million. It cost us \$790 for a year.

Otherwise things are normal, and your society is in good financial shape, with over \$24,000 in the bank.

Dave Hughes  
 Treasurer

# WESTSIDE MEMORIES

compiled by Jan Knox

## WEST SIDE MEMORIES

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#### TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS

One Hundred and Twenty Five Years Ago  
March 1875

As soon as Springs opens, a large part of our "shabby-genteel" populations will migrate to San Juan. *3/6 C. S. Gazette*

Colorado Springs has twenty-one Additions and "Subdivision." Surely it is time for it to become a City. *3/6 C. S. Gazette*

Mr. Summers has been adapting the Designs for the School-House to stonework, and building will be pushed rapidly as soon as the weather will allow. *3/6 C. S. Gazette*

Mr. Harrison has resigned the office of Town Attorney, his reason being, we believe, that Judge McFerran continually took it upon himself to question his opinions and set aside his advice. Mr. Harrison, we incline to think, has more law in his little finger than the Judge has in his whole body. *3/6 C. S. Gazette*

The editor of the *Mountaineer* isn't to be blamed for running round the streets in a semi-nude condition. He can't help himself; some inhuman wretch stole part of his clothing from the clothes-line the other night. *3/6 C.S. Gazette*

Something must be done about Jacobs' Buffalo. The other day, a couple of visitors who had been to Cheyenne Canon, were returning to Colorado Springs, and when they got to the Bridge over the Fountain, one of the animals appeared before them, with a steady gaze and determined front, and so alarmed them, they turned back with undignified haste and never stopped until they reached a house where they were assured that the animals were quite tame and harmless. We don't know what to suggest. Perhaps a large card bearing the words "I am tame" in bold letters, tacked on their foreheads, might serve. We advise Mr. Jacobs to think about the matter. *3/6 C.S. Gazette*

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Saturday evening last, when, among other business, a petition was received from a large number of citizens, praying for the grading and repairing of the road leading from Pike's Peak Avenue, around the south side of the Experimental Garden. The petition was referred to the Street Commissioner. The Clerk was authorized to receive proposals for the office of Town Scavenger; and the President was authorized to have a cart made for the use of the officer. The resignation of Mr. Harrison, as Town Attorney, was received, and Judge Bane appointed to the vacant office. *3/6 C.S. Gazette*

Base-Ball and Quoit-Pitching form the regular Saturday afternoon amusements for the men of Monument and vicinity, while the ladies amuse themselves with Croquet. Those men who are too intellectual to be interested in games take in a cargo of benzine, and perched on dry-goods boxes, make the Town "ring" with laughter at their own foolishness. *3/6 C. S. Gazette*

It begins to look like Spring when the plows come in to be put in order at the blacksmith shop of Frank Agnew. Frank attends strictly to business, and does his work in good style. *3/6 C.S. Gazette*

Runaways seem to be now in order. Yesterday afternoon, a wagon loaded with potatoes, belonging to an Englishman, came tearing along Tejon Street, then into Huertano Street and round to the back of Walker's Lumber Yard, and to the Stone-yard, where fortunately, it was stopped before any serious damage was done. As the team turned into Huertano Street, it frightened another team, which started at a lively rate, but that also was brought to a stand before any injury had been sustained. *3/13 C.S. Gazette*

We are in receipt, from Messrs. Rand, McNally & Co., of Chicago, of a copy of their new Map and Guide Book to the Black Hills. The map, which is 18x20 inches size, colored, shows the entire Territory of Dakota, Eastern Montana, and Wyoming, North-eastern Colorado as far south as Denver, the whole of Nebraska by counties, North-western Iowa

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and Western Minnesota by counties, and the southern portion of the British Possessions. General Custer's outward and return routes are traced, with all the geographical points of interest mentioned in his report located. Accompanying the map is a neatly bound book of 32 pages, illustrated, containing a recapitulation of all that has been said within the past six months concerning gold in the Black Hills, descriptions of the various routes thereto, distances, estimated cost of transportation, with General Custer's preliminary report of his late expedition in full, and other information. 3/13 *C.S. Gazette*

Most of our citizens have doubtless tried to picture the sufferings and privations and loneliness of the Signal Boys on the Summit of Pike's Peak during the Winter season, and their hearts have melted within them as they have thought of the poor fellows, incarcerated in their little hut, amid a wide waste of snow, with fierce storms raging around them and wild winds striving to hurl them into space and eternity. This, at any rate, is the sort of idea we have formed of their condition. We were not a little surprised, therefore, the other day to hear that there was not a single Signal Officer there, but that every member of the corps was calmly rusticating in Town. Two or three of them, we learn, came down on account of "sickness," and they remained so long that the one who was left felt compelled to come and see about them, and now he also, we suppose, is sick. Mr. E. C. Dana, of the Lake House, has charge meanwhile of the Station on The Summit, and is "going it along," with nothing but batteries and thermometers and anemometers and electrometers and such things to keep him company. 3/13 *C.S. Gazette*

A couple of small boys got into a sugar hogs-head in front of Craigue's Grocery Store, on Thursday, for the purpose of scraping out the sweetness that remained sticking to its sides. Whilst enjoying themselves as only small boys in a sugar-barrel can, they were espied by a dog, who suddenly took great interest in their proceedings, and watched them with the closest attention. It then occurred to them that they had better "get out of there," but the nearer they approached the opening, the nearer the dog also approached it, and every time they uttered an expostulation or a yell, he replied with an ominous growl. It was not until somebody in authority inter-

fered that the dog would allow the prisoners to go free. It will be some time before they are caught in a sugar-barrel again. 3/13 *C.S. Gazette*

Pueblo and South Pueblo are to be connected by a street railroad. May 1<sup>st</sup> is the time set for its completion. This reminds us to ask whether the scheme for a horse railroad from here to Manitou has been abandoned or whether it is still entertained. Such a connection would be of great benefit to both places and, we think, would not be long before it yielded a handsome return on the capital invested in it. Some of our enterprising people, please to set this matter going again, and keep it going until the cars themselves begin to go. 3/13 *C.S. Gazette*

About fifty tons of ice have just been stored at the Manitou House for the Summer's use. It has been brought down from the mountains by General Sickles, and is said to be of remarkably good quality. 3/13 *C.S. Gazette*

The Cliff House had a narrow escape from destruction on Monday last. A fire broke out, from some unknown cause, in the porter's room, and had made considerable headway before it was discovered. For a time, it seemed as if the flames would get beyond control, and furniture and other goods were hastily removed from the building, but by the hearty work of a large body of helpers, the fire was at length got under control and extinguished. The damage done was comparatively slight. 3/13 *C.S. Gazette*

A special meeting of the County Commissioners was held in the County Clerk's office, on Saturday last. A full Board was present. On motion it was ordered that the sum of \$400 be appropriated out of the Military Fund now in the hands of the County Treasurer, for the construction of a room to be used as an Armory in the proposed new Town Building. Bids for burying paupers were opened, and the contract was awarded to N. Hodgeman, at \$15 for all over 10 years of age, and \$10 for all under that age. The report of the Viewers in the matter of the application for location of County Road, made by Henry Limback *et al*, was received and the said road ordered located as prayed for by said petitioners. The road runs east from Monument to connect with the road from Bijou Basin. 3/13 *C.S. Gazette*

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The Fire Company had the Babcock out on Tuesday, when they discharged the cylinders and recharged them, putting the Extinguisher into good order for prompt action. The working of the machine was tolerably satisfactory. 3/13 *C.S. Gazette*

There's one consolation about the hard Winter. They say that the grasshoppers have all had their teeth frozen. 3/20 *C.S. Gazette*

General and Mrs. Palmer arrived in New York from England a few days ago. They will probably spend some weeks in the East before returning to Colorado. 3/20 *C.S. Gazette*

An accident happened on Tuesday last in Ute Pass. As a lady and gentleman were driving along the narrowest portion of the road, the horse got frightened at a dog and became unmanageable, and ran for nearly a mile before he was stopped. Luckily, the only damage done was to the breaking of one of the wheels of the buggy. 3/27 *C.S. Gazette*

The meeting of citizens in favor of the maintenance and enforcement of Prohibition, was held in Weed's Hall last Monday evening, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the coming election. Mr. Matt France was called to the Chair and Mr. W. D. Gaby was appointed Secretary. A committee, consisting of Judge Randall, Mr. Copley, and Mr. Wolfe, was appointed to submit nominations. 3/27 *C.S. Gazette*

There was a small shower of rain on Tuesday evening. So far as we can learn, it was never known to rain in Colorado in March before. Whether this betokens an earlier Spring than usual, we will leave others to tell. 3/27 *C.S. Gazette*

Shine yer boots; only ten cents!" can be heard on our streets all hours of the day., It is the melodious voice of a new boot-black. 3/27 *C.S. Gazette*

Water was turned into the ditches in Town on Tuesday. 3/27 *C.S. Gazette*

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*from page 3*

Monument--Robert Hutchinson, Teacher; \$138.12. District No. 6, Six miles east of Monument--no school; \$68.00 District No. 7, Base of Cheyenne Mountain--no school; \$55.24 District No. 8, Fountain--A. B. Powers, Teacher; \$144.49. District No. 9, El Paso--Mrs. M. E. King, Teacher; \$102.00. District No. 10, Southwater--Miss Maggie Campbell, Teacher; \$44.74 District No. 11, Colorado

## 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 April-May timeframe.

Springs--L. G. A. Copley, Miss E. P. Beecher, Miss Julia Brainerd, Miss Hattie Shields, Miss. E.E. Wadleigh, Miss E. J. Meritt, Teachers; \$1,089.90 District No. 12, Cheyenne Creek--Miss L. C. Smith, Teacher; \$87.02 District No. 13, Florissant--Mrs. Barnard, Teacher; p \$97.34 District No. 14, Manitou--Miss Viola Kelsey, Teacher; \$121.12 District No. 15, Bijou Basin--Mrs. Boyd, Teacher; \$38.24 District No. 16, Summit Park--W. H. Barber, Teacher; \$121.12 District No. 17, Four Mile--Aaron Harmon, Teacher; \$53.12 District No. 18, Cherry Creek--L. Q. Hobbgs, Teacher; \$57.37 District No. 19, Borstville--Miss Moffat, Teacher; \$72.24 District No. 20, Edgerton--no school; \$34.00 District No. 21, Easton--Mrs. L. V. Bryant, Teacher; \$59.49

The Teachers are paid from Forty to One Hundred and Twenty-five Dollars each per month. The Schools are nearly all well attended and in a flourishing condition, and most of them are accommodated in commodious and comfortable buildings.

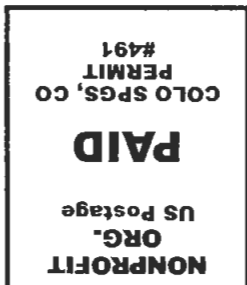
Upcoming O.C.C.H.S. Programs

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 experience some of the Pikes Peak region's most colorful and fascinating "Conversations with Dora" Celebrate Womens' History Month with the Society on Friday, March 8, at 11:00 am--refreshments available at 10:30 a.m.--and Doris McCraw, historical actress, play wright, volunteer with the Colorado Springs Film Commission and a member of O.C.C.H.S. Take a delightful trip to the 1800s through entertaining stories, original songs, witty sayings, poetry, and sing-a-longs. "Dora" authentic costumes and demeanor create an atmosphere where historical figures come alive - making this one history lesson you won't soon forget!

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.



OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 ONE SOUTH TWENTY-FOURTH STREET  
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