



OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 6

June-July 2003

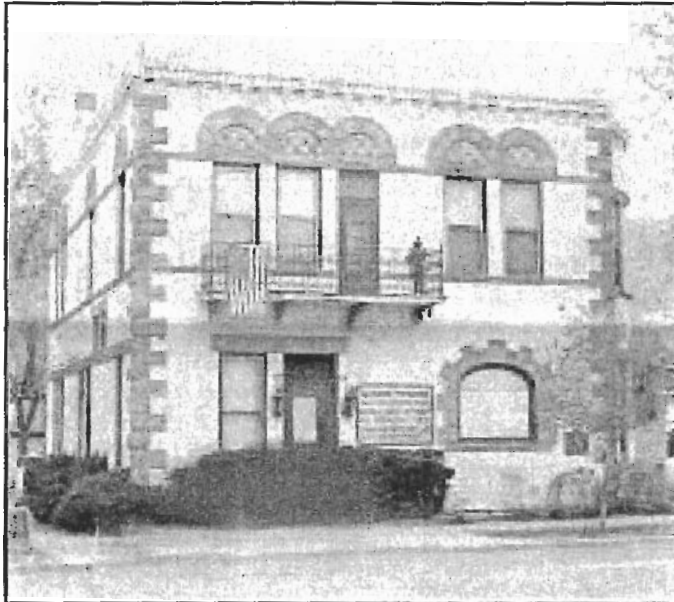
CONTROVERIAL CHARLES STOCKBRIDGE

By 1891 when Cripple Creek Gold was found, and Colorado City was headed for its rip-roaring reputation as a saloon and gambling city, Charles Stockbridge was already controversial.

As the elected Mayor of the little one-street 'Old Town' sandwiched between uppity Colorado Springs where saloons were forbidden, and the snooty Mineral Resort town of Manitou Springs, Stockbridge took it on himself to deal personally with the seedier residents - the saloon keepers, and the representatives of the Prostitutes who plied their trade in increasing numbers in the still rough blue-collar Colorado City.

But all this had started over a decade earlier when, in 1878 - only 7 years after the founding of Colorado Springs - Stockbridge together with a C.E. Fisher and Joseph T. Bird organized the El Paso County Brewing Company in Colorado City for \$3,000. It would manufacture, beer, ale, and porter for wholesale and retail. They built a brewery on what is now the southeast corner of 28th and West Colorado Avenue.

A good reason to put it there was that General



Stockbridge House Now

Palmer's Denver and Rio Grande narrow gauge railroad line ran right up Cucharras Street one block south of Colorado Avenue to Manitou Springs. That meant that the railroad, rather than horse drawn wagons - the only other transportation of the day - could carry the beer barrels all the way to Denver and further. But in order not to block the main, one track line to Manitou, they built a very short spur behind the brewery where one boxcar could be positioned.

Records of Colorado City show that in 1879 one Clement Stockbridge - a brother probably - was the brewery foreman. And we know that the old stone building across the street at today's 2832 West Colorado Avenue - today's Surplus City - was used to store the products of the brewery. I believe Stockbridge may have lived in that building also at this time - the second floor was apartments. By 1883 the original company changed so that it became a partnership between 'Stockbridge & Elwell.'

As a 'leading businessman' of Colorado City, Charles Stockbridge shows up as one of the Trustees of the City in 1882! He was working his way up the political ladder which was to be important ten years later when Rip Roaring Colorado City arose.

By 1887 only Stockbridge's name is associated with the Brewery. Of course there were churches and teetotalers in Colorado City who didn't even like

Continued on page 5

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
 ©2003 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	Jo Cervone	719-266-9096
Treasurer	David Hughes	719-636-2040
	Kay Atteberry	719-599-3187
	Nadine Gilman	719-262-6661
	Bob Heinich	719-448-9001
	Betty Magnine	719-633-8150
	Tom Hendrix	719-633-7392

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 12, 2003
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

Old Colorado City History Center encourages
 you to attend its events, meetings, and pro-
 jects. Please call 636-1225 for information

Summer Hours
 (June - September)

TUES-SUN 11 A.M. to 5:00 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

FROM THE OCCHS ARCHIVES

Everything has a history - people, places, and even organizations, like the Old Colorado City Historical Society. It was incorporated twenty-three years ago on May 13, 1980. The History Center, of course, opened its doors to the public on a May day also - May 17, 1997.

The records of the society and its activities are now housed and cataloged in the society's own archives. These records cover the whole range of the society's and the museum's history. As might be expected, the minutes of board and committee meetings are there. Financial affairs can be documented with the treasurer's reports. And, it is interesting to delve into the beginnings of events that have become traditions, such as the first Cemetery Crawl and the first Bed & Breakfast Tour.

The whole story of the acquisition of the History Center at 1 South 24th Street can be traced and illustrated through the records. The plans, the contracts, the grant proposals, and the quest for state and national historical site recognition are witness to the long hours and hard work of the society's members. Progress on the renovation of the museum can be followed through numerous photographs, as can the addition of the balcony and the refurbishing of the stained glass windows. Future archivists and curators for the society may be especially interested in the documents and photographs detailing past exhibits.

There are some gaps and omissions in the society's records, as is the case in almost any organization. The minutes of early meetings are missing. Many of the photographs are unidentified and future generations will want to know: Who are these people? What on earth are they doing? So - if members of the society have items that they would like to place in the archives, contact Mike Olsen at the History Center to see if what they have can fill in some gaps. Also, in the coming months watch the West Word for a call for volunteers to stop by and help label the photographs. So much has been accomplished in such a short time and its memory needs to be preserved.

Mike Olsen

On **July 4th**, Americans celebrate Independence Day. The story goes something like this...

A group of settlers known as Pilgrims settled in a place known as Plymouth. The settlements grew and 13 colonies were established. Although the settlers original fled England to avoid religious persecution they found themselves under British rule.

The colonies struggled for independence and autonomy from the clutches of England for many years. England was far away and was unable to be actively involved with the welfare of the colonists. They did, however, levy heavy taxes on all products going to the colonies.

In 1767, England placed a tax on all tea used by the American colonist. The colonists protested "taxation without representation" and refused to allow the tea to be unloaded. In 1773, colonists dressed as Native Americans, boarded ships from the East India Company and threw 300 chests of tea into the Boston Harbor. This became known as the Boston Tea Party and the road to freedom was begun.

On January 10, 1776 the famous pamphlet *Common Sense*, by Thomas Paine, was distributed. It swept the colonies invoking a sense of pride and determination. The Spirit of '76 was born.

On **July 4, 1776**, Congress passed the Declaration of Independence. It announced to the world that "these United Colonies" are "Free and Independent States" and absolved their ties with England, thus beginning the war for independence. They had declared their right to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."



Today Americans celebrate by flying the flag, cooking at home (usually a cookout, also known as a barbecue), and watching a brilliant fireworks display.

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

compiled by Jan Knox

One Hundred Years Ago
June 1896

The big chlorination mill of the Colorado-Philadelphia Reduction company is slowly but surely rising from the ground. Already hundreds of tons of red sand stone have been put in the foundations, which are three feet thick. Two large derricks are used to handle the large blocks of stone which are brought from the Kenmuir quarries in Red Rock canyon. The mill will be the largest of its kind in the United States and will directly and indirectly give employment to more than 100 men. Were it not for the fact that money is so scarce among the people, a boom of huge dimensions would be raging in Colorado City real estate.

Miss Reynolds, one of the teachers in the Bancroft school, is suffering from an attack of measles.

The electric light located near Kinch's store in Bott's addition was wrecked by lightning during the thunder storm yesterday afternoon.

George R. Buckman, secretary of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce is out in a card saying that unless \$500 is forthcoming by this evening the Broadmoor Casino will not be opened this season. It seems strange that George should appeal to the public for this small amount. Why doesn't he put it up out of his own pocket?

Dell Ash, one of the quill pushers on **The Daily Iris**, rode down from his father's ranch in Douglas county yesterday,

horseback. The result of the trip has laid Dell out and he hasn't been able to do anything since.

Dr. Shaw of the Chicago Dental Parlors, had his left arm broken near the elbow last Saturday evening while coming from Manitou. The doctor was riding a wheel and was traveling at a high speed when he ran into a bad place in the road and was thrown. It will be some time before the doctor will have use of the broken member.

A big boarding house will be erected at the new chlorination mill soon.

Horace Matthews of Cripple Creek, is stopping in the city for a few days in the hope of escaping a threatened attack of pneumonia. Mr. Matthews lived in this city with his parents many years ago, his father having been at that time principal of the Colorado City schools. His parents now reside in Salt Lake City.

Members of the hose company can be found practicing every evening now, preparing for the races on the Fourth.

Under the auspices of the Christian church, a tent meeting, conducted by the Rev. T. J. Head, evangelist from Oklahoma, will begin tomorrow evening, opposite the Bancroft school building.

Oscar Madel's fine two-story residence on Jefferson avenue is nearing completion.


This evening, at the First Baptist church in this city, a grand musical concert will be given by colored talent of Colorado Springs. The program consists of instrumental, solo and chorus music. The price of admission is 25 cents. The entertainment is given under the auspices of the A. M. E. Church.

C. W. Kinsman, the street commissioner, is grading and putting East Third street in passable condition.

2

Come join the fun and hear
Katherine & Duncan Lamont
Anthony Bott -
Blanche Barton -
Laura Belle, and others as
they were a hundred years
ago

2



2

OCCHS
CEMETERY CRAWL
SATURDAY AUGUST 9
SUNDAY AUGUST 10
COUPON GOOD FOR TWO
DOLLARS OFF ADULT AT THE
GATE OF THE FAIRVIEW CEME-
TERY 1000 S. 26TH STREET

2

his manufacture of spirits. The battle between the Wets and the Drys was starting.

Then came the Cripple Creek gold rush of 1891, followed by the gold mills of Colorado City, and the Midland Railroad which was full gauge linking the two. Which helped make Colorado City the 'transfer

point' for the tens of thousands of Cripple Creek District bound gold and adventure seekers. Since the D&RG was narrow gauge and ended in Manitou, Colorado Springs was dry, and the Midland full gauge railroad station was at the foot of today's 25th street, across Fountain Creek, Colorado City exploded with Saloons - 26 of them. And gambling. And Brothels. All on the south side of Colorado Avenue.

About this time, prospering Stockbridge bought out the only hotel in town - the original two story 1860 frame hotel on the southwest corner of 28th, and turned it into his family residence. You can see that hotel and the stone building in the earliest pictures of Colorado City. In a series of increasingly bitter elections Stockbridge was elected Mayor of Colorado City, a position he held for many years, while the Anti-Saloon forces tried to oust him.

Well, if you were the Mayor of a wide open saloon town like Colorado City you had to wheel and deal with the Saloon keepers, and Madame's and other nefarious characters. Since Stockbridge, by now had a growing family, with daughters, he undertook to dig several of the famous Tunnels of Colorado City. One from Fountain Creek bank, only a block south to a room under the large 'yard' west of the two story hotel/home, where, with another tunnel to inside his home, he could slip out and meet with the Madame's such as Laura Belle and the Saloon owners to make the deals needed. And not be seen on the streets, or by his daughters in their home.

But on New Year's Eve, 1891, Stockbridge had a party on the second floor of his large two story home. When everyone came downstairs in the wee hours for a supper, a Japanese paper lantern upstairs caught on fire, and the top floor of the building burned. It was a great event in Colorado City, with many cheering.

Stockbridge promptly announced he would rebuild the structure. But his political enemies announced that if he did, they would burn it to the ground! So he did and they did! And about this time the Brewery burned down also, never to be

rebuilt. Arson?

So Charles Stockbridge, Mayor of Colorado City, rebuilt again - and you can see the very stylish brick and stone - with red quoins - two story building at today's 2901 West Colorado Avenue. The third building on the original first building site of Colorado City, 1859. On founder's corner - where the road to Denver came, down 28th Street, and terminated.

But Charles Stockbridge proclaimed that his building now had an Iron Roof, which 'Neither God nor Man' could destroy! Its still there.

What happened to Stockbridge later is lost in time. Eventually Colorado City voted dry in 1913, and prohibition closed down booze for good in the 1920s.

But there is still a mystery to me. When Stockbridge, the richest man in Colorado City rebuilt the fine home in the spring of 1891 it still has wonderful parquet floors, and superb woodwork. Which took excellent carpenters to accomplish. And who was one of the outstanding Colorado Springs carpenters who worked on rich people's houses? One Winfield Scott Stratton, who carpentered the winter and prospected in the summer. His excellent woodwork and carpentry was a feature in the mansion of J.J. Hagerman, the owner of the Midland Railroad. It was that summer of 1891 right after Stockbridge's home was finished that Stratton, on July 4th, staked out the Independence Mine, and became two seasons later, the most famous and richest man of them all in the Pikes Peak Region.

Did carpenter Stratton do the marvelous woodwork for Charles Stockbridge in Colorado City before he worked the Independence Mine?

Dave Hughes
dave@oldcolo.com

In an effort to update the Book Store we have prepared a Wish List

*book ends ? bookcase ? hat rack ?
magazine rack ? hand embroidered tablecloth or table
runner (good condition only), also napkins ? silk flowers*

*Call Betsy Evans (635 4782) or Joanne Karlson
(475 2574) and we will pick them up. Thanks.*

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT 12 MAY 2003

Our Society through 2002 and so far in 2003 had financial results as follows:

Our Income in 2002 was \$31,779. Our costs were \$31,008. So we gained \$771 in 2002, which was within \$100 of our budget that took into account the declining state of the economy.

Our income highlights were:

Memberships - \$4,250	Craft Fairs - \$5,625
Book Store Sales - \$5,637	B&B Tours - \$2,345

Our larger expenditures included:

Replacement Computer for our Web Site and Data Base - \$2,978 Four and a half months pay for our new Archivist, Mike Olsen - \$4,544 The average cost to keep our doors open - our overhead - \$700 a month

We started this calendar year - 2003, with \$21,941 in our general fund and \$550 in our Book Store account - after the normal annual transfer of the \$2,000 book store profits to our general fund.

Our Endowment Fund stood at \$64,658 January 1st. Of which \$61,000 is untouchable without a vote of the membership. \$3,658 is accumulated interest which may be used by the Board, according to our bylaws, for needed general expenses. We did not need that in 2002 or so far this year.

Thus we began 2003 in good shape, although we know that the general economy is still way down. We also will incur a \$1,000 a month cost for continuation of the services of our Archivist, who has proven to be able to perform many additional research and other historical services for us.

Accordingly your Board approved this year's Budget projecting a loss of \$8,670 on projected income of only \$23,080. Which 2003 shortfall can be covered by our cash surplus. We should end 2003 with \$14,313 cash, with an additional \$4,790 accumulated endowment interest available which we MAY need if we continue to pay our Archivist into 2004 and the general economy, tourism, and interest rates do not pick up.

As of the first of May, we are on Budget target and \$1,000 ahead of our January projections. A will bequest, memorial, and life memberships have already added \$780 to the untouchable portion of our Endowment, bringing it to over \$65,000.

We are well in control of our financial situation.

David R Hughes
2002-2003 Treasurer

The President's Message

On Saturday, May 3rd, we had our second annual Victorian Tea. Bernideen provided the wonderful tea, napkins, center pieces plus door prizes. Goodwill loaned us the round tables and chairs with Snow-white linens donating the table linens again. At every table one person won a bottle of wine.

Rita Wilhelm, Seasons Past Historic Clothing and Costume Shop, presented a lovely Victorian fashion show. Rita made all the lovely costumes from authentic patterns. We were completely sold out so it was a good fundraiser. For us. There were so many comments afterward from our guests telling how much they enjoyed themselves that we are already planning our third Annual Victorian tea for next year.

The City Forestry Department received a grant to plant more trees for free. They promised us one tree, but to our surprise, they planted, mulched, and watered three trees on our property.

Also come look at the new exhibit on Zebulon Pike Mike Olsen, our archivist, is putting in our exhibit room.

Have a pleasant summer and don't forget; — no OCCHS monthly meetings for June, July and August

- Founders Day on August 9th and 10th which will coincide with the Cemetery Crawl this year —and as we always do we will have a presence at the Territory Days Festival in the cabin along with a booth in the street.

I would like to welcome the three new members of the OCCHS Board of Directors: Kay Atteberry, Bob Heinich and Betty Magnine. I am looking forward to working with you. Congratulations! I would also like to thank the departing members of the board, they worked hard and we accomplished many things.

Bev Disch
OCCHS President

FOUNDERS' DAY - FAIRVIEW CEMETERY CRAWL

The Old Colorado Historical Society is happy to announce we will sponsor the **SIXTH Annual Fairview Cemetery Crawl** in conjunction with **Founders' Day Celebration** on August 9th & 10th, 2003.

Join us for a full day of activities. Both events have been a huge success in the past so why not combine them offering a different and fun way to enjoy the rich history of Colorado Springs' Historic West Side.

Throughout both days, enjoy crafts and collectibles in Bancroft Park and a great bake sale in the Cabin.

At Fairview Cemetery, pioneers and former residents come alive as Society Members and Volunteers assume their identities and retell their stories! Costumed Actors will be located by the gravesite

of the individual they portray. Each group of "Cemetery Crawl" visitors will stop at designated points to hear stories of Cemetery Residents and their lives during the existence of Old Colorado City from 1859 to 1917. Enjoy the stories of up-standing citizens, madams, saloon keepers, businessmen and other characters who lived, spent time, or found their final resting place in Old Colorado City.

As always, proceeds from both activities will benefit the Historical Society. Tickets are available at both the History Center and at Fairview Cemetery on the days of the event. Advance tickets are available at the History Center. \$5 for Adults and \$3 for Children. \$7 and \$3 at the Cemetery on the days of the event. Hours of the "Crawl" are 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Fairview Cemetery, 1000 S. 26th Street.

See the coupon on page 4



If you haven't purchased your copy of Cathleen Norman's wonderful walking tour book of the west side with its marvelous pictures, now is your chance to get one at a great price.

5

Good *only* at
Old Colorado City
History Center
1 South 24th street
Colorado Springs,
Colorado



Five Dollar Coupon
Good for purchase of

**In & Around
Old Colorado City
A Walking Tour**

5

5

5