



OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 5

May 2003

The Antlers

By Leland Feitz

Colorado Springs was just a little over 10 years old when the first Antlers Hotel opened. That was June 1, 1883. It was built downtown at the west end of Pikes Peak Ave. on land owned by the city's founder, General William Jackson Palmer. He also put up much of the money for its construction.

Even though Colorado Springs had a population of about 5000, the hotel would not have been out of place in a big city. There were 75 guest rooms and all the features of a grand hotel. Some 11,000 guests registered there during its first year.

Business was so good, in fact, the hotel doubled in size through an ambitious expansion program. The fame of the place spread and helped the city become an important tourist destination.

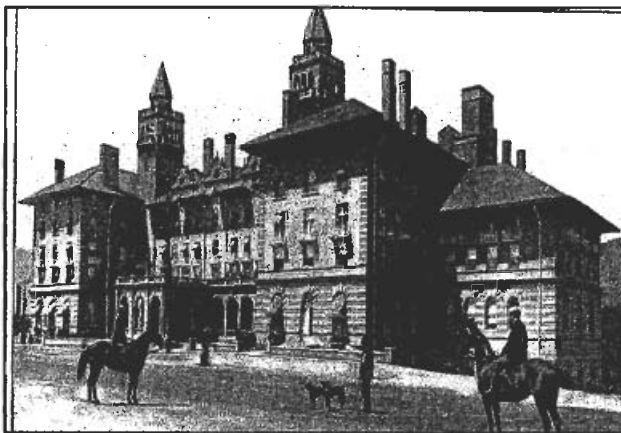
Then on October 1, 1898, the building caught fire and burned to the ground. General Palmer was on a business trip in England at the time. He heard about the disaster by cable. He answered with another, promising the people of Colorado Springs that a

new hotel twice as grand as the old one would be built on the same spot.

As soon as the ruins of the first hotel were hauled away work began on the new Antlers. General Palmer returned from England to oversee the planning and construction. By then, the city's population was approaching 20,000. Cripple Creek's mining boom was bringing a new prosperity to the place.

Construction of the second hotel was completed in 1901 with a grand opening on July 2. It was everything the General had promised and more. It was, simply put, one of the nation's finest hotels. The five-floor building with its 230 guest rooms cost some \$600,000.

General Palmer himself named the hotel just before it opened. He called it the Antlers since a collection of deer and elk trophies were seen in the public rooms



In 1898 fire destroyed the old Antlers and was replaced with the twin towered structure that stood for over 60 years as the "center piece of Colorado Springs. Photo circa 1901 shortly after the new Antlers was completed.

During the years that followed, much of the social life of the city centered at the Antlers. Several presidents of the US were Antler's guests. Being only a half block from the Burns Opera House, many famed entertainers stayed there. It was in an Antlers room that Katherine Lee Bates wrote "America the Beautiful" after a trip to the summit of Pikes Peak. It was a favorite stop for the well-to-do business

continued on page 5

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
 A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
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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
Secretary	Jo Cervone	719-266-9096
Treasurer	David Hughes	719-636-2040
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	Nadine Gilman	719-262-6661
	Pat Fejedelem	719-473-8684
	Kristine Van Wert	719-630-2155
	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 **Don't forget the May meeting**
May 9, 2003 **is the Annual Meeting and the**
At the History Center **election of Officers - May 9th**



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

Winter Hours
 (September – May)

TUES—SAT 11 A.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

The El Paso County Department of Health and Environment has ask us to place certain information regarding the West Nile Virus in our publication as a Public Service Announcement to help the citizens of El Paso County become aware of the health threat that could possibly become severe this summer. We gladly do so.

Updated 03/03

West Nile Virus

What you need to know

El Paso County Department of
Health and Environment
301 S. Union Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80910
(719—578-3199)

Where do I go for more information?

Center for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment at www.cdphe.state.co.us

El Paso County Department of Health and Environment at www.elpasocountyhealth.org

El Paso County Department of
Health and Environment

For additional information, to report areas of stagnant water that may be potential mosquito breeding areas, or to report a dead bird call 578-3199. Information on West Nile Virus and other animal diseases of concern to El Paso County residents and visitors is also available on our web site at:

www.elpasocountyhealth.org

Updated 03/03

What is it?

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a virus that is spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito.

How is it spread?

Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on a bird that carries WNV. The virus can then be spread through the mosquitoes saliva when it bites a human or another animal.



What are the symptoms?

Some people who are exposed do not become ill and have no symptoms. Those who do become ill usually report fever, headache and tiredness. These symptoms last approximately 2-7 days. Although less common, 10% of those infected may develop high fever, stiff neck, severe headache and confusion.

Who is most at risk?

Individuals over age 50, small children, pregnant women, and those with poor health. However, anyone can become infected.

What do I do if I think I have it?

Contact your healthcare provider.

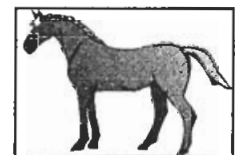
Can animals become infected?



Birds are the most common animal infected. The highest death rates are seen in crows, magpies, ravens, and jays. Horses are also at risk for infection therefore it is important to contact a veterinarian since there is a vaccine available for horses.

How do I avoid getting West Nile Virus?

- ✓ Limit outside activity in early morning hours (dawn) or evening hours (dusk). This is when most mosquitoes are out and feeding.
- ✓ Wear long pants and long sleeves if you are going to be out where mosquitoes are present.
- ✓ Use age appropriate or doctor recommended insect repellent when outside where mosquitoes are present.
- ✓ Check screens on windows and doors. Repair any tears or holes.
- ✓ Drain all standing water on your property. Turn over buckets, old tires, empty cans, etc.
- ✓ Change the water in birdbaths or wading pools at least once per week.



WESTSIDE MEMORIES

compiled by Jan Knox

L. A. Sheldon, a caretaker at Prospect lake, brought to the city yesterday a fine specimen of the loon species, which he captured at the lake. The bird is one of the handsomest specimens of its kind ever seen in the city and measured about four feet between the tips of its wings, and is about three and one-half feet high. Mr. Sheldon noticed the bird in the rushes that surround the lake and when he went after it in a boat the loon dived under the water. Mrs Sheldon succeeded in hitting it with an oar and captured it. He took the bird to Aiken's museum and will have it mounted. 10/24

The reception given in honor of Mrs. Anna M. Brandt, Republican candidate for superintendent of public instruction, by the ladies of Colorado City yesterday afternoon at the K. of P. hall, was a success in every way and a most delightful affair. The hall was tastefully decorated in the national colors, flags and bunting, besides a beautiful arrangement of palms and flowers. Mrs. Brandt arrived early in the afternoon, and was the guest during her short stay, of Mrs. J. T. Baker. The reception committee at the hall was composed of Mesdames B. L. Trimble, C. M. Sherman, F. F. Schreiber and W. P. Epperson. Miss Leona Lucas and Miss Lena K. Boss presided at the refreshment table. Several gentlemen were also present during the afternoon, among others J. B. Stephen, Republican candidate for the legislature, and Albert Allen, the nominee for justice of the peace. Mrs. Brandt spoke briefly to the ladies, expressing her great appreciation of their cordial reception and stating that if elected she would do everything possible to eliminate politics from the department of public instruction. A part of her remarks were addressed especially to the teachers of the city schools, many of whom were present. Mrs. Brandt left yesterday evening for her home in Cripple Creek. 10/26

As was announced at its organization Monday night, the Colorado City Anti-Bucklin club will hold its meeting tonight at Waycott opera house.

Judge J. D. Shewalter and Attorney J. K. Vapatta will be the speakers of the evening, and an interesting discussion of the proposed tax amendment may be expected. There will without doubt be a large attendance, as a great deal of interest is manifested in the discussion of the bill. The organization of the Anti-Bucklin club in this city, and the agitation against the bill is already bearing fruit and carries especial weight from the fact that it is strictly a non-partisan movement, both Republicans and Democrats making up the personnel of the club. 10/30

Mr. R. T. Godfrey, the druggist, has made arrangements to install a fine new soda fountain at his drug store. Mr. Godfrey and his wife returned from Denver yesterday, where they have been visiting for several days, and while there purchased the new fountain at a cost of \$2,000. It will measure 10 feet in length and will be perhaps the finest in the city. 10/30

The Willing Workers of the Baptist church will give a 10-cent social October 31, at the home of Mrs. Case, 416 North Fourth street. Halloween games will be the amusement of the evening. Refreshments will be served. Cordial invitation to all. 10/30

Among the express packages that were handled by the local office of the United States Express company yesterday was a large wooden cage containing a young mountain lion. The animal was shipped from Prof. Gus Stainsky of this city, to William T. Hornaday, superintendent of the New York Zoological park, who will place it among his live animal exhibits at the New York zoo. The animal was captured about a week ago by a ranchman named R. C. Drew, living near Green Mountain Falls. The lion which is only about a year and a half old, was found one morning in the large barnyard of the ranch, attacking a calf. It was frightened away but returned next day, and the men around the ranch succeeded in corralling it, in a small pen where it was soon captured and caged. Mr. Drew sold the lion to Mr. Stainsky who in turn disposed of it to Mr. Hornaday. The lion is about seven feet long from nose to the tip of its tail and weighs a good deal over 100 pounds. It is very vicious and will make a valuable addition to the wild animals at the park. 10/30

travelers and tourist.

General Palmer died in 1908. George Krause, an associate, became the manager of the hotel. By the middle of the century, his son became manager. It was during the Krause years the Broadmoor opened. But, the downtown hotel continued to be popular with travelers and the people of Colorado Springs. Antlers food was exceptional. Much of the city's nightlife centered around the Copper Grove and later, the Little Room. Convention business was good.

By 1950 the place showed some signs of age. Income had begun to slip a little. Several modern looking rentals were tacked on to the front of the building. KVOR and others rented space on the lower level. A penthouse was added and leased to the Alexander Film Co. All this helped the hotel to show a profit.

It came as quite a shock to the city when, in 1955, the hotel was sold to the Fairmont Hotel Co. of San Francisco. By then, it was owned by the Krause family and Palmer heirs in England.

Immediately, a major restoration began. Once again the old hotel looked great and important people like John F. Kennedy were stopping there. It was a gathering place for the city's movers and shakers. The old hotel's last manager recalls seeing 57 stars on the shoulders of a group of Air Force officers once gathered in the lobby.

Even though much money was invested in the Antlers, some five years after the Fairmont take-over, its popularity began to slip. A study was conducted and it was determined a total restoration was out of the question.

By then, the city had a population of over 100,000. Chase Stone, the president of the First National Bank came up with a bold idea. He saw a great new business complex where the old hotel stood. It was then the El Palmar Foundation bought the place. With that announcement, it was also made known that a new hotel would center the complex and that the Western International Hotel people out of Seattle would operate it.

On September 20, 1964, the last guest of the old twin towered building checked out. That same night, the Falcon Room band lead staff members and hotel friends in singing "Auld Lang Syne" and the lights went out. A few days later the hotel's furnishings went on sale and the people of Colo-

rado Springs trailed through the much-loved building for the very last time. A week later, the "centerpiece" of the city for over 60 years came down in a cloud of dust that enveloped the all of downtown. It was over. Old timers shed a few tears.

The third Antlers Hotel was a 276-room high-rise building, modern in every way. A display of photographs in the elegant lobby showed how the new hotel was linked to the past. It opened in 1967.

Eight years later, the famed Broadmoor through its management company took over the operation of the Antlers. Russell Freymuth was made manager. When he returned to a Broadmoor position a few months later, Douglas Cogswell became manager. Both men were Colorado Springs natives.

After the Broadmoor take over, there was some remodeling. Little "Broadmoor touches" were seen here and there. For several years, a London double deck bus ran between the two hotels.

Then there was another change. The Doubletree chain out of Phoenix, took over management in 1989. The hotel was closed for a year while the building was changed inside and out. When it reopened, it was a 291-room beauty. But, there was not much that connected it to the earlier hotels. That was changed in 1997 when the main dining room was completely redecorated and re-named the Antlers Grille. The room, which had a club like feeling, displayed many large photos of the earlier buildings. At about the same time, words like "historic" and "traditional" began to creep into the hotel's advertising. The Grille became an overnight hit with the people of Colorado Springs.

Then in September of 1998 the St. Louis based Adams Mark chain bought the Antlers. It was the smallest hotel in the Adams Mark chain and the only one with a name other than Adams Mark. The chain's owner said, "We certainly would not want to drop the name Antlers. That is a significant identity in Colorado Springs. It has been a proud name for many years." So now, the city has an Antlers Adams Mark hotel.

For 120 years the city and the hotel have been deeply involved with each other. And, the love affair seems to be still going on.

For those who want to know more about Colorado Springs historic hotel the gift shop at the history center sells a book titled "The Antlers".



The Antlers sometime in the late 1950's when the Ute theater, the Burns opera house (the Chief theater an historic landmark that was torn down by an insensitive urban renewal authority), still existed. Not quite visible is the Trail theater on the north side of the zero hundred block of Pikes Peak Avenue. The old Peak theater is now the Kimball Twin theater.

The original of this photo is very clear and quite distinct to the point of being able to identify the year and type of automobiles present.

It is also noted that the street traffic lights were still in the middle of the intersections.

The editor

Treasure's Report

We continue to decline in our cash on hand as we move through the slow winter/spring months. We started April with \$17,987 on hand, and the Book Store had \$1,328 cash on hand.

But our Endowment Fund received a small boost from three sources in March.

We had a \$150 lifetime membership taken out. \$50 was deposited on behalf of the Alex Purinch Memorial George White, a longtime member, left us a \$500 bequest in his will.

Together with the \$245.34 earned interest this quarter, as of 1 April our total Endowment Fund stands at \$65,603.35. Of that \$61,700 is untouchable except by the vote of the membership - as the Lifetime Membership, Memorial, and Bequest- \$700 -has been added to the basic fund, while \$3,903.35 is earned interest, which may be spent by the Board if necessary to meet our financial obligations.

So we are just about where we projected for this time of this year in the Board Approved 2003 Budget.

Dave Hughes, Treasurer

Announcing our Second Annual Victorian Tea & Victorian Fashion Show, Saturday, May 3rd, 2003, 1-2:30 p.m. \$18.00 Advance Sale Only.

Join us for our 2nd Annual Victorian Tea & Victorian Fashion Show in the OCCHS Center Saturday, May 3rd from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Bernideen's is once again donating the Teas, Table Floral Decorations (for sale after the tea with all proceeds to the OCCHS), plus door prizes. The Food Designers is catering the Tea and providing a delicious afternoon Tea Menu including finger sandwiches, scones and great desert items. Our generous sponsors include Goodwill loaning the round tables and chairs as well as Sno White Linens donating the table linens once again.



Rita Wilhelm, Seasons Past Historic Clothing & Costume Shop, will moderate a Victorian History of American Ladies Fashions with models from the Victorian Heritage Society. This fashion show proved to be very entertaining as well as informative and we look forward to Rita's choice of fashions for this year's Tea.

Mark your calendars and purchase your tickets early.....Last Year's 1st Annual Tea was a Sell Out Event! Call your friends, bring your husbands (we had several join us last year), be sure to join us for Fun, Food, Fashion & TEA!

Old Colorado City Historical Society Territory Days Booth - May 24, 25, & 26th!!!!

Mark your calendars for Territory Days in Old Colorado City! OCCHS will once again have a Booth in the street in front of the Cabin. Join in the fun and help us at the booth. We will be seeking volunteers plus your Great Bake Sale Items that are always a big hit!

Email if questions, thanks Pat

Our Hearts Inn Old Colorado City
Andy & Pats Hearts on Ruxton,
a Victorian Vacation Cottage
1.800.533.7095

719.473.8684

fax us @ 719.64.4954

visit our site @ www.inn-colorado-springs.com

Our Hearts are in Old Colorado City

The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society

The program will be Jan MacKell discussing her new book, Cripple Creek District, which will no doubt be very interesting as she brings the history of one of the great gold fields to the present day. She will be available after the meeting for a book signing so be sure and attend the meeting for her discussion.

Cripple Creek District Last of Colorado's Gold Booms By Jan MacKell

published by Arcadia Publishing an imprint of Tempus
Publishing, Inc. Charleston, SC
© 2003 by Jan MacKell

The Cripple Creek District, on the back of Pikes Peak in central Colorado, first found fame through Bob Womack the cowboy who publicized his knowledge of gold in the high country and drew thousands to the area. Gold fever allowed the region to flourish, while strikes, fires and economic hardships threatened the district's survival. The dwindling population's fortitude, plus innovative ideas to boost the economy, carried the city from a struggling gold miner's paradise to a favored tourist spot.

Jan MacKell, author and historical and genealogical researcher, is affiliated with the Colorado State Historical Society, Old Colorado City Historical Society, El Paso county Pioneer Association, and several other historical groups. Her compelling narrative, coupled with vivid historic images, is an enlightening, informative portrayal of this central Colorado area.

The book contains a selection of vintage photographs, and period maps.

MAY BOARD ELECTIONS

At the May meeting OCCHS members will elect four people to fill the expired terms on the board. The candidates are Kay Atteberry, Bob Heinich,

Dave Hughes and Betty Magninie

Kay Atteberry retired from school District 11 three years ago after teaching for 29 years at Holmes Middle School on Mesa Road. She joined the Old Colorado City Historical Society about a year and a half ago. Since then she has worked in the bookstore and assisted in getting the West Word ready for mailing. She is looking forward to the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors. Her interests include local history, reading and traveling.

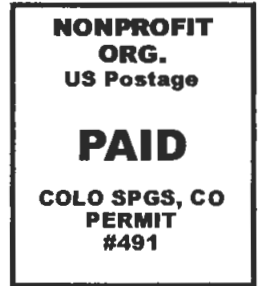
Betty Magninie is a native of Colorado Springs and spent most of her childhood in Old Colorado City. She has a deep appreciation for Old Colorado City and the History Center. She has served as a bookstore volunteer, bookkeeper, and on the long range planning committee. Her experience should be of value to the Board and membership of OCCHS.

Bob Heinich

Professor Emeritus, Indiana University
After he retired from IU, Bob and Christine moved back to Colorado Springs and the Westside where they lived from 1949 to 1962. Bob was Audio-Visual Director, School District 11, and Christine taught at South, North and East Junior High Schools and Wasson High School. He was President of OCCHS from 1996-99.

Dave Hughes has been involved with the historical preservation and economic revitalization of Old Colorado City and the Westside for 28 years. He wrote the first history of the original Colorado City in 1877. He is a founding member of the Society and has served on the Board numerous times since its beginning in 1980. He has served as Society Treasurer since 1999 and by automating its financial reporting functions provided the board timely advice on the decisions it must make periodically

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



Old Colorado City Founders' Day Celebration
Crafts and Collectables In the Park
August 9 & 10, 2003
Sponsored by the Old Colorado City Historical Society
A fundraiser for the History Center

Exhibition Space: spaces are 10X10; or 20X10 for two

Space rates for both days are: spaces facing Colorado Avenue are \$25 for one space., \$40 for two; spaces under the shelter are same as Colorado Avenue; in the Bancroft Park area 1 space is \$20, 2 spaces will be \$30. Food vendor' spaces will be \$25 for one and \$40 for two.

Apply; Your application must be submitted by August 5, 2003, mail to:

Crafts & Collectables I the Park
Old Colorado History center
1 S. 24th Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

For additional information phone 719-636-1225 between 10am and 5pm Tuesday through Saturday. Leave a message if no answer.

Applications can be picked up at the History Center