



Old Colorado City Historical Society

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 1

January 2004

OUR 1859 CABIN IS DONE!

The \$91,290 renovation of the 144 year old Colorado City Cabin in Bancroft Park is all over but the shouting. The old log cabin, originally built in 1859 by Dr. Garvin just as the new gold rush town was starting up, just may last another 100 years now.

Friday, December 5th, the City held a morning ceremony in the very cold gazebo in Bancroft Park marking the occasion. Quite a crowd

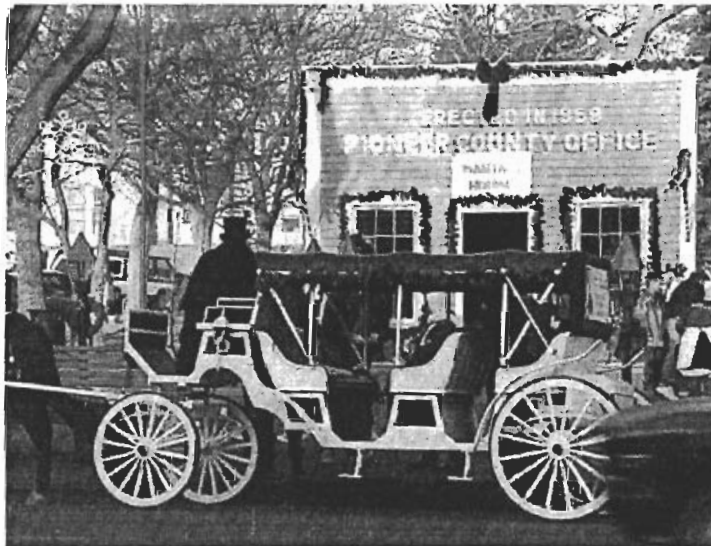
turned out in the freezing cold to hear representatives of the Park Department which supervised the work, Westside Councilman Jerry Heimlicher, Bev Disch, our President make remarks about the successful partnership between the State Historical Society, the City of Colorado Springs, and the financial mid-wifery of our Historical Society to complete the

work. Besides many of our members, City Manager Lorne Kramer, the Old Colorado City Associates, and the prime contractor Charlie Patterson, were present. Lots of pictures were taken.

Well just what was done to the cabin for all that money?

Because the Cabin, especially the lowest level hand-hewn logs, had deteriorated beyond temporary repairs - which were last done in 1977

- there was a need to get the whole thing up off the bare, wet, ground. So the cabin, for the 3d time in its 144 year history, was lifted up, moved off its space, while a new concrete foundation was put under it for the first time. Then it was moved back and placed on the foundation, with barely visible stone and cement seal installed around the base. A small splash plate was put all around to deflect falling and dripping water away from the logs and foundation.



It was that splashing water that had so deteriorated some of the original logs, they had to be removed, and new logs, shaped and stained to match the old ones put in place. So if you look closely you can see the old from the new.

But also that venerable stone chimney and inside fireplace were removed!

Now it took lots of research and looking at the oldest photographs of the cabin, first in its original location at what is today 2606 West Colorado Ave, when it was Sam Wahs Laundry (and opium den), then after it was moved to the Broadmoor in 1927, and as it sat on the State Capitol grounds during the Rush to the Rockies Centennial in 1959 - before all agreed that the fireplace and chimney were not original. They only were there for the last 40

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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	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
January 9, 2004
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 projects. Please call 636-1225 for information

Winter Hours
 (June – September)

TUES – SUN 11 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Closed Monday

Visit our web site for even more history!

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years or so! It originally had some kind of stove inside. So a modern design, but old style, 'Box Stove' - the type carried out to the west and used on the trail - was put in, with hidden electric heat, and an old style metal pipe chimney was added. Which chimney, if you look at the old photos, looks just like the ones it had long ago.

New flooring was put in that can stand the thousands of feet who love to come in and see and feel the history inside.

The foundation had to be redesigned when expansible clay was discovered under the floor. And waterproofing with water-runoff piping installed.

Logs were repaired with epoxy and chinking done. A plank floor was put in, and roof shingles replaced, with a 'breathing' ceiling inside. Siding work was done.

New wiring was put in, and two removable baseboard level radiant electric heaters, for winter-only use, were installed. A new front porch was put in, with a portable ramp for handicapped access was made. It can be emplaced when the cabin is open.

The front door with a lock is now the entry door - the old side door that always was a chore to open was replaced. Its can only be opened from the inside.

The window protection solution to discourage vandalism or break-ins is far better than the ones used earlier - with outside shutters or heavy panels covering the windows. Now there is an indoor grill work which can be taken down from the inside. It is unobtrusive. So from the outside the small pane windows are revealed now.

There will be three special etched photography signs erected outside displaying in photographs and text, the history of the cabin and Colorado City. And there may be a plaque installed by the city recognizing the stewardship of the cabin by our Society for all these years.

As most Society members know from previous newsletters, we helped out the City of Colorado Springs by being the organization that applied for, and has been administrating the \$68,450 Grant from the State and the \$22,840 match from the City for the work. That aid by us avoided the problem for the City that, had it been the applicant under the Tabor Amendment, the City would have had to lower its

general budget by the amount of the State grant. There is no cost to the Society for this except it must pay the last \$6,850 in bills from our own budget - the last 10% of the State grant - then apply for reimbursement, which we should get by April. So the work is done and the cabin is already being used for Christmas activities.

You can see pictures of the entire project on a special web site set up by David Hughes III at <http://occhs.oldcolo.com/modules/gallery/> Or link to it off our general web site <http://history.oldcolo.com>
Dave Hughes

President's Report

As we are entering the new year, let us look back at the end of last year. Betty Magnine did a thorough review for 2002 of our society. She finds us an extremely well managed organization, that all the components of the organization are managed with incredible volunteer support. Our current financial status is excellent with budget goals that are true to our mission. Betty's report is available for anyone to look at in our office. I thank her for her thorough report.

We adopted a Code of Ethics to preserve and protect the entire collection and a Chronology for our collection policy at our December Board Meeting.

We had lovely weather for our two B and B tours this year and made \$1,111.00 from them. This was done by our volunteers who were hosts, helped with the open houses, and baked cookies. Of course, Kudos go to the innkeepers who opened their doors for the fundraiser for us.

We have rented our museum for two Christmas parties and may rent it for a Valentine's Day party. Please spread the word that we are available for rental. It's a good source of income for us.

So as Betty states in her report, "The most outstanding and incredible asset of this organization is it's large number of dedicated and conscientious volunteers."

Happy New Year!
Bev Disch

Memories of yore

by Arlene Casey

{Articles were taken exactly as written, the grammar, punctuation and capitalization are as they were presented. Everything in{ } and italicized are my comments}.

THIS IS FOR THE SCHOOL CHILDREN:

Hilfiker & Co., will give away every Monday morning to every school boy or girl one fancy slate pencil free by calling at their store.

The feather bone is the newest thing out in the line of corsets you can not break them; they add grace and beauty to the form, they are always comfortable they are sold at Hilfiker's.

The feather bone corset is the only corset made that you can wear thirty days and if not entirely satisfactory you can take it back and get your money back Hilfiker sells them.

Solid gold specks at M.F. Warren's only \$2.75.

Commencing last Wednesday morning December 5, the cars for Manitou run every thirty minutes from 6 a.m. till 10:30 p.m., leaving Pikes Peak and Tejon on every even half hour and hour between the above time. The cars for Colorado City run every fifteen minutes from 6 a.m. until 5 p.m. Last car for Manitou leaves at 10:30 p.m.

An event that will ever have a place in the history of the Pikes Peak region took place in Colorado City on Sunday December 3, 1894. We refer to the first use of natural gas for fuel in this part of the state. On that day Mrs. W.P. Epperson *{who seems to be the wife of the owner of "The Iris" newspaper}* prepared dinner for THE IRIS family on a range heated by natural gas from well No. 2, the property of the Colorado City Oil company. The gas was led into the house through a ?? inch pipe. The burner used was known as the Economic and was manufactured at Indianapolis, Indiana. The experiment was successful in every particular. The heat was even and uniform. Chops were broiled to a turn and the mince pie was beautifully browned o'er the top. The

importance of the event lies in the fact that the time is not far distant when gas will replace coal as fuel for domestic use in the country round about Colorado City, Colorado Springs and Manitou.

{In a later article published on the same day}.

The Ladies Guild of the church of the Good Shepard will give a "natural gas" social at the residence of Mrs. W.P. Epperson Thursday evening. The refreshments served will be prepared on a range heated by natural gas.

{In a later article published on the same day}.

The natural gas social at the house of Mrs. Epperson Thursday evening will be a novel affair, as the natural gas will be used for heating the refreshments. Coffee and cake will be served for 10 cts. Everybody come and see the natural gas in use.

The Iris - December 8, 1894

THE WIND

Thursday morning a violent wind storm visited this region. Considerable damage was done to windows, signs and awnings in this city.

About 12:30 p.m. the wind rolled up the big tin roof covering the Hoffman-Windsor building and dumped it into the street. With the roof came sheeting joists, brick and stone, four or five hundred brick were hurled entirely across Colorado avenue, 100 feet and went through the front of Bennett's undertaking establishment. The tin a portion of the sheeting and joists lodged on the wires of the El Paso Electric company and the Rapid Transit company which set fire to the wreck several times. The hose cart was brought out two lines of hose laid, but fortunately the current was cut off in time to prevent disaster. A hundred citizens cleared the wreck with the hook and ladder outfit. A portion of the fire wall on the east side of the building went through the roof of the O.K. barber shop and left a hole eight or ten feet across. Loss about.

It was a bad day and those who objected a shroud of dust and a shower of gravel stayed in the house as much as possible.

Storm Notes.

Work was discontinued at the shops all day.

C.M. Sherman's house lost a portion of its roof.

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FLAGS FLYING

There are three splendid new and one older flag now flying high up inside on the Eastern wall of our History Center. Liz Geiss originally came up with the idea of our flying flags inside. After much discussion, research and alternative proposals were made, the Board approved two traditional and two special flags. The accompanying photo shows them as they now proudly fly.

On the left as to see it from the Center - but on the 'right of the line' as custom requires, a 33 Star American Flag flies.

To the right of it, flies a special, newly designed flag with the Great Seal of Colorado Territory on its white background, symbolizing the Territory of Colorado which existed from 1862 to 1976 when the State of Colorado was authorized.

To the right of that is a new Colorado State Flag which has existed since 1976.

And on the far right, is the Colorado Territorial Militia flag, which, denoting the 1st Colorado Infantry Volunteer Regiment which was formed in 1861, marched south over Raton Pass, and defeated the much larger Confederate force at La Glorietta Pass in Northern New Mexico March 26th, 1862.

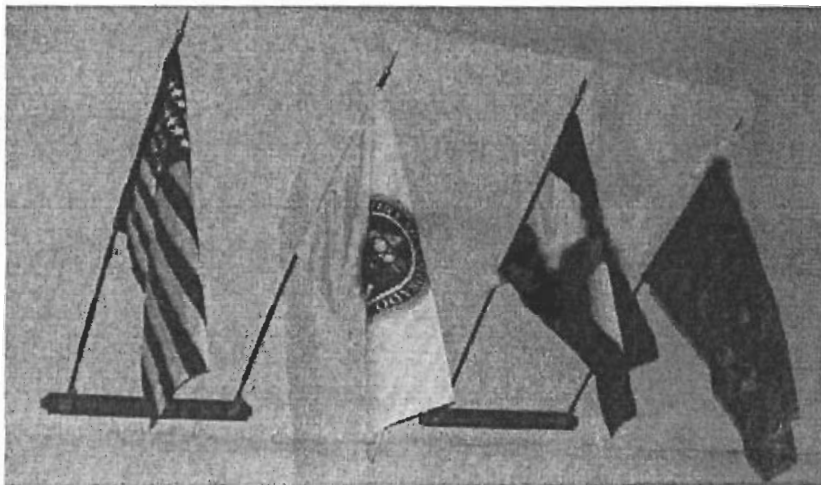
A little explanation is in order.

When Colorado Territory was formed in 1861 and Colorado City briefly was designated the first Territorial Capital, America had only 33 States - thus 33 Stars. Just between 1859 and 1862. Since it is perfectly legal and customary to fly any American flag which ever was an official flag of the United States, it is appropriate, that the Society, which preserves and presents the History of Colorado City, that it

display the 33 star American flag the US flew when Colorado was a new Territory and Colorado City its first capital!

Then, even though the State Historical Society cannot find evidence of an 1860s Territorial flag - quite strange since the Territorial government in Denver was active from 1862 to 1876, 14 years, 5 of which were during the Civil War - the Board decided it was appropriate to recognize the period when our Colorado City, was the Capital. And further, since the

splendid Great Seal of Colorado design was taken exactly, from the design of the Great Seal of Colorado Territory which even the first Governor, William Gilpin helped design, it was natural to fashion our own 'Territorial Flag' out of that 1861 Seal design. So we



designed our own flag out of the heraldry that was definitely here, then. Its beautiful.

Then a standard blue, red and white Colorado Flag was added to show, at least, the new-old Colorado City is really still part the State of Colorado, even though Denver stole the seat of government from us 141 years ago.

Finally, the ceremonial unit which called themselves the Colorado Territorial Militia and paraded and educated children in the 1970s and 80s locally before disbanding, about the glorious exploits of the Colorado's Regiment which saved Colorado for the Union in 1862 left us their flag, and their small bank account. Which they wanted used to perpetuate the memory of the Colorado Territorial Military. So that flag also flies.

The four flags, all are 6 by 4 feet, with new flagpoles and ornaments, are affixed to adjustable brackets.

They were erected just before this Christmas Season. Charlie Patterson Construction donated the labor and materials to put them up high on our walls. So long as no flag flies higher than the American flag,

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the display meets all the standards for a flag display.

The only thing left, which Dave Hughes says he would like to take care of personally, is to put exactly one Battle Streamer on the Militia Flag. For the 1st Colorado was formed in 1861, had one glorious battle that not only saved Colorado for the Union, but also denied the Confederacy their dreams of empire by taking over today's New Mexico, Arizona, and Southern California! Our little '1st Colorado Infantry Regiment' did all that! It passed through Colorado City enroute to its great battle. And then encamped in Colorado City November and December of 1862 after the rebs were driven back to Texas. It was disbanded as a named unit and turned into the 1st Colorado Cavalry. So the 1st Colorado Regiment only existed while Colorado City was its capital! The one Battle Streamer will say "La Glorieta Pass - 1862' and fly proudly over visitors to our center.

REPORT FROM THE EXHIBITIONS CHAIRMAN:

We have been puzzled by a 65" by 9" old photograph that has been in the storage area of our Museum. After the staff couldn't identify the area of the picture, we appealed to the membership and friends of the Society. Lo and behold, our answer partially appeared when two folks from Kansas had some of the answers. They are Eve Landis from Carbondale and Gary Haney from Topeka. Our counter member, Jean Christopher excitedly called me and together we went over their findings. They not only identified both Victor and Goldfield towns, but also some of the Mines and their locations. Later, Betty Baker and her cousin became caught up in the identifying process. They found pictures of the Mines in Feitz' book, "Cripple Creek". So I took action and purchased a 1/4" by 4" board of white pine. On this I drew the profile of the various mountains; Squaw, Battle and Bull Cliff. Next was the placement of each Mine on this identifying board. At this point I needed our very knowledgeable Historian member, Leland Fitz and called him for help. He came despite the cold, rainy day and placed Mine signs, town signs and mountain signs in their approximate positions that they had occupied around the year 1900. The board was filled with the most productive and prominent mines of that era. Thousands of tons of ore were processed and separated and the result was, GOLD! Today it looks lots different up Victor way. The towns of Victor, Goldfield and Altman still exist but only a couple of mines are still running.

Come see it all, the view of our past. Also see the fine exhibit of Dr. Michael Olsen. It commemorates the 200th anniversary of Zebulon Pike's, "discovery" of our great peak called, Pike's Peak.

Liz Geiss

A large window in E.H. Jewett's residence was blown in.

The big sign on The Oxford Club building was torn from its fastenings and topped over.

A chimney on Isaac Kissel's house was blown down and went crashing through the roof.

Hilfiker & Co's awning was twisted, tattered and torn and George Ritter's sunshade shared a like fate.

The transoms over the front windows in the Masonic lodge room were blown in the hall filled with dust.

Half the front of Pap Haldeman's feed store was caved in and a couple of Charley Sherman's Christmas trees chased each other down Colorado avenue.

The coach shed erected a couple of years ago down in the Midland yards to shelter Mr. Hagerman's private car was blown down and considerable damage done to the roofs of other buildings.

Mrs. Maurice Moore had a narrow escape from a falling chimney. She had just arisen from her bed and went into the kitchen when about 2 hundred brick crushed through the ceiling and fell on the bed.

{In a later article published on the same day}.

The chimney which was blown down on Mr. Isaac Kissell's house did more damage than was first supposed. The rafters which were carried in wrecked the ceiling and walls of three rooms. The loss will reach \$200.

The Iris - December 22, 1894

"Early Days of Colorado Railroading"

On Saturday, January 24, 2004 at 1 p.m. at the Old Colorado History Center, 1 South 24th St. Mel McFarland a Colorado Springs native and Colorado Midland Railway buff will present a most interesting program.

Mel will share stories and insights of the significance of the building of these early railroads and the development of many Colorado communities and businesses.

On display will be historical photos from the museum's large photography collection as well as a variety of railroad artifacts.

1903

- In 'ought three' as my grandpa used to say, neither of my parents had been born, my entry into the world was still a World War and 34 years away. Bob Hope entered this world but was too young to watch the Wright brothers make their first flight at Kitty Hawk. Bob would live ten decades and see changes that to him I'm sure seemed unreal, he recently died at the age of 100.

So where were we a century ago? This ought to boggle your mind, it sure did mine!

The year is 1903, one hundred years ago ... what a difference a century makes. Here are some of the U. S. statistics for 1903....

The average life expectancy in the US was 47, Bob sure beat that one.

Only 14% of the homes in the US had a BATHTUB.

Only 8% of the homes had a TELEPHONE.

A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost \$11, a weeks wages for the average man.

There were only 8,000 CARS in the US and only 144 miles of paved ROADS.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average wage in the US was \$0.22/hour.

The average US worker made between \$200-\$400/year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000/year, a dentist \$2,500/year, a veterinarian between \$1,500-\$4,000/year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000/year.

- More than 95% of all BIRTHS in the US took place at HOME.

90% of all US physicians had NO COLLEGE education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost \$0.04/pound. Eggs were \$0.14/dozen. Coffee cost \$0.15/pound.

Most women only washed their HAIR once a month and used BORAX or EGG YOLKS for shampoo.

Canada passed a law prohibiting POOR people from entering the country for any reason.

The five leading causes of death in the US were:

1. Pneumonia & influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was 30.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented.

There were no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

One in ten US adults couldn't read or write.

Only 6% of all Americans had graduated from HIGH SCHOOL.

Coca Cola contained cocaine.

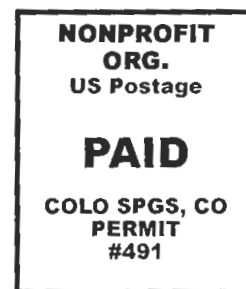
Marijuana, heroin and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores. According to one pharmacist, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and the bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."

18% of households in the US had at least one full-time SERVANT or domestic.

There were only about 230 reported MURDERS in the entire US.

Just think what it will be like in another 100 years. It indeed boggles the mind...

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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80904+1533 12



In Remembrance

Helen Lindahl Michelson

February 1907 - December 2003

Helen, a Lifetime Member, will be remembered by the older members of the Society. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

TREASURERS REPORT

As the end of the year approaches, the cupboard, while not exactly bare, is getting a little spare. November saw only \$171 in Book Store Sales. We did have, however two Christmas parties that netted us \$250 each. Cash donations were down. Betsy Evans will only be able to transfer \$500 this year from the Book Store account to our general expense account, down from over \$1,000 last year. Members need to

patronize our Book Store more! It really has lots of wonderful things!

While not on the November's books, the Bed and Breakfast tour in early December brought in \$1,091. Pretty good, all things considered, but down from last year. The word is that it will not be held next year after 9 years. Tough years for the B&Bs.

The Sales of the Cabin log slices have started. 18 have been sold so far, at \$25 each. Get yours! They are real collector's items!

The Society had \$16,085 in the bank in our General Fund at the end of November. We're ok, heading into the new year.

Dave Hughes
Treasurer