



## OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 6

July-August 2004

# A TRUE TREASURE

## The Colorado City High School

By Dave Hughes

An absolute historical treasure has recently been given to the Old Colorado City Historical society by Mr. Mark Hampshire from Centennial, Colorado. This came into his possession from the papers of his second cousin Rowena, daughter of his great Uncle Rufus who edited the Colorado City Iris in 1907-1908!

It is a small cloth bound book, with brown thread binding, titled 'The Aristocrat' and dated 1915. Its nicely printed, with scores of pictures. It is described on the titled page as 'The Birthday Number' and 'Edited by the Senior Class of the Colorado City High School.' The handwritten names of 'Rufus Hampshire' and 'Rowena Hampshire Roberts,' in graceful Spenserian cursive - taught to children in that era - are inside the cover.

It is the only known publication about, much less by, the tiny high school in Colorado City which only existed from 1906 until 1917.

Now I have seen over the years amateurishly done high school year books. But this is a gem of a book on many levels. First of all, besides being full of information in its ample 74 pages about the students, the faculty, their sports and activities of their school - with only 15 in its graduating class - it gives wonderful insights into what life must have been

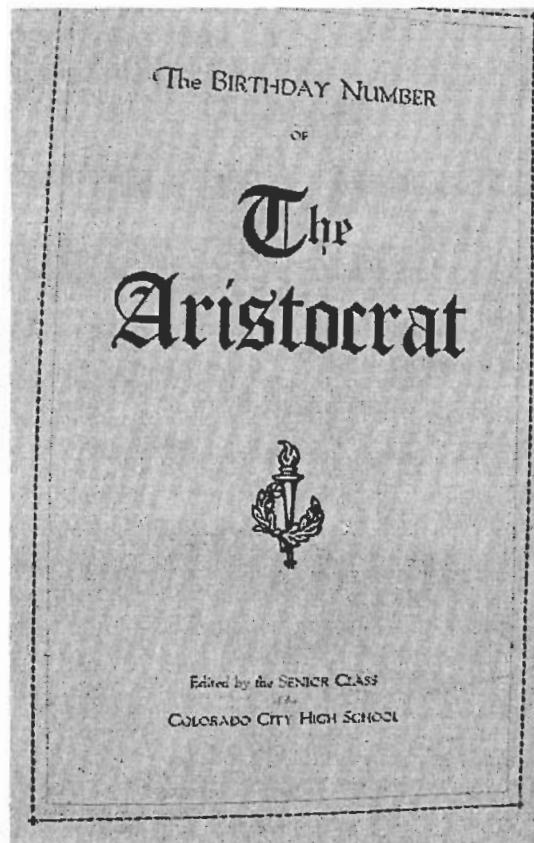
like around the last two years of the separate existence of struggling Colorado City which was dissolved in 1917.

So few local Colorado Springs natives knew about that school that, in 1976, 25 years ago I was challenged in a large meeting by elderly members of the Pioneer Association about whether a high school ever existed in Colorado City. But I had in my possession then, and they are in our Historical Center now, a pair of Navy blue girls basketball bloomers with 'CCHS' on its faded purple ribbon, an old baseball and mitt owned by a 1909 graduate, and a Diploma. They were given to me by the aged sister of one Clarence Fritsch - Class of 1909. They were our only Society's tangible evidence that there was a High School in Colorado City until this book surfaced with Mark Hampshire almost 100 years later.

But Colorado City High School was indeed alive and well for 11 years. The four classes in session when the Class of 1915 edited 'The Aristocrat' contains names that old time Westsiders might recognize. Such as the Borst children - the 'Borst Meat Market' family whose descendents still live

here, and who employed the racing Unser Clan as meat cutters after 1909. And a young 'Greenlee' was undoubtedly related to the Greenlee Quarry family. Also the 'Kinsman' name of a child is associated with early Colorado City real estate. A 'Drake' was a child of the bank president, Martin Drake.

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**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  
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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  
 Or Merv Casey - thequill@adelphia.net

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	Joanne Karlson	719-475-2574
Treasurer	David Hughes	719-636-2040
	Kay Atteberry	719-599-3187
	Arlene Casey	719-634-2356
	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 10, 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

*Summer Hours*  
 (June – September)

TUES – SUN 11 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Closed Monday

*Visit our web site for even more history!*

<http://history.oldcolo.com>

- stories
- manuscript
- interviews
- documents
- photographs
- biographies
- Book & Gift Shop online

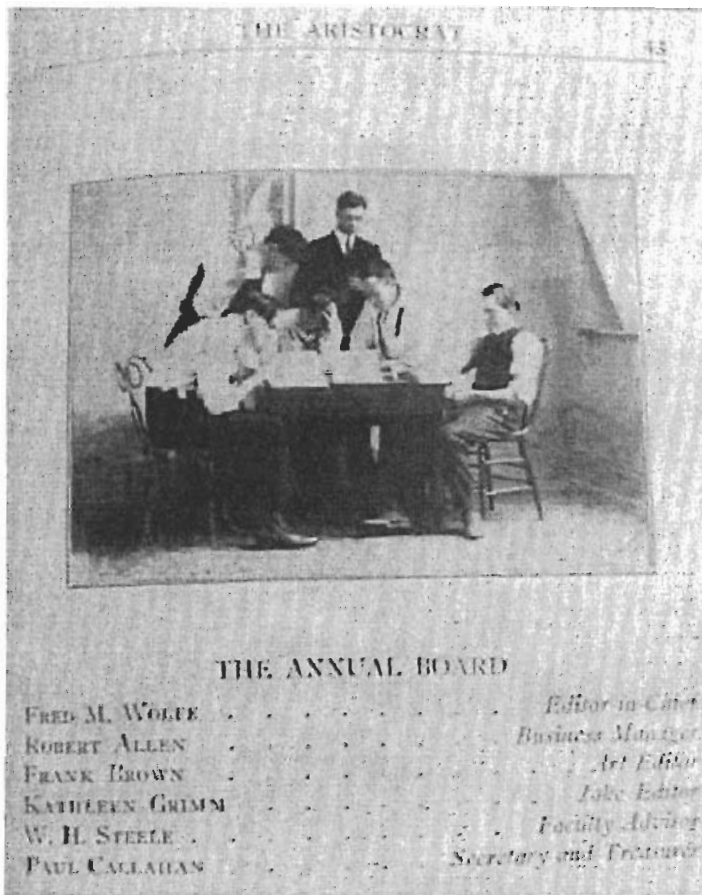
e-mail us at: [history@oldcolo.com](mailto:history@oldcolo.com)

The book even includes the names and pictures of Alumni dating back to the Class of 1909, thanks to the work of a little 'Alumni Association.' The book claims 77 graduates from the first high school's opening. No graduating class was larger than 12 until 1915! The Class of 1913 had just 6 girls and 1 boy!

But note some of the other names: 'David Winternitz - '09' who went on to become one of the prominent Winternitz family of doctors so well known and respected across all Colorado Springs. "Luther McKnight - '14" our very own, with an early picture of him as just a student, probably 17 years old in Colorado City High School. Several "Faulkner" children, James, Class of 1911, Thelma, Class of 1913 - all progeny from the Faulkners who owned the Colorado City famous Faulkner Store. "Clarion Taylor - '12" one of the town's stalwarts. And a girl Gladys O'Brien, I'll bet was a daughter of the 'O'Brien' family whose descendents ran 'O'Brien's Printing in nearby Ramona into on 19th Street North of Uintah.

Although Colorado City had existed since 1859, and there were several elementary and middle schools - Midland, Whittier, Longfellow, and Arensdale as well as Bancroft - all of which are pictured in the Aristocrat, it wasn't until 1906 that a separate 4 year High School was organized. It opened with only 7 students in the first 1907 class. What took so long? Because, as small Colorado City grew after the opening of the Cripple Creek gold rush, the Midland Railroad, and the four great gold mills after 1891, the school age population grew enough to justify its own High School. Prior to that Colorado City youth were obliged to go to high school in Colorado Springs. With 3 miles walking distance and large culture differences between Colorado Springs youth and Colorado City youth, many locals never bothered to attend school in Old Town after the 8th grade.

It is obvious from The Aristocrat that Colorado City was determined to built a respectable high school to serve its own children. By 1908 the school was ac-



credited to all the State colleges. By 1913 the Colorado City High School was accepted in the Northern Central Association, giving entry to universities. As one young editor proudly noted "That's an honor very few schools our size can obtain."

Students wrote in another place "The chief cause of our success is that the citizens of Colorado City cooperated with our teachers in doing everything possible for our progress."

While irreverent modern school kids often only mock and bait their teachers, there is a consistent theme throughout of how much the children of blue collar Colorado City appreciated theirs. They behaved. And they dedicated The Aristocrat to one 'I. S. Nichols' who was on the Board of Education 'District 1' - the only district, from

1897 to 1914 - whom the young 15 high school seniors praised for his untiring improvement of District 1's schools.

In another section, the student editors, admitting it is unusual to honor Board members in a High School annual, put pictures of the four members of the Board on a page, which included the only picture I have ever seen of our own famous Rev Duncan Lamont who was quite a civic leader, having fought against the saloons, run for city council, ministered to the Baptists in town, and now we know was also on Colorado City's School Board! Tending to the moral education of the town's children no doubt.

The listed Bachelor and Master's degree credentials of the teachers were impressive. The school even boasted a Greek and Latin scholar. The curriculum was obviously Classic 19th century. Math, English, History, Science, and Language - Latin. There was a Literary Club. And school plays.

One entire page is devoted to the technical description of the Cyanide Processing of gold ore in the Golden Cycle Mill of Colorado City. Surprising in both its accurate detail and very existence in a high school year book. Would that modern students could understand as much science, geology, and chemistry! Or even show as much interest in a key local business that sup

*continued on page 5*

### May Treasurer' Report

May was highlighted by Territory Days, and our operation of both a Society booth on Colorado Avenue and Bake Sales inside the newly renovated Bancroft Cabin, to raise funds and the awareness of our programs.

Betsy Evans, our Bookstore manager reports sales of \$541 in our booth, and \$336 in sales during the month in the History Center.

And we sold out home baked goods, netting just over \$400 - better than in previous years. As always, our Society Bakers come through!

We had to disburse \$4,679 in May for the final Cabin Restoration Bills. \$1,834 of which will be reimbursed by the City by the time this newsletter is circulated, and the final \$6,285 will be reimbursed by the State of Colorado, hopefully a little faster than in previous years. For the State's 'Technical - meaning 'historical' - Review' of the contract we supervised for the City by taking responsibility for the Cabin Grant, is already completed. Only the bean counter review by the state has to be completed. When that money comes back to the Society's coffers, the entire 2 year \$92,000 Cabin Restoration project will have been completed, and the only real cost to the Society, other than the hard work Owen Knox, and Rebecca Clark as society volunteers to manage the funds, making the myriad reports, and oversee the contract work done by Patterson Construction, will be the small amount we paid the Bank to keep open a separate account for all Cabin funds - less than \$100 over the two years.

If you haven't seen the three historical panel displays in front of the cabin now, also paid for by the State Grant, which covers Colorado City's early history, and the history of the Cabin, with photographs, you are missing something. Tens of thousands of visitors every year will stop and read outside that which previously was only available inside.

With the final cabin disbursements we had \$9,929 in our General Account Bank Balance the end of May. Which will bounce back to over \$18,608 when the State and City reimburses us the money they now owe us.

Overall we are ok, hoping the general economy and tourism continues to recover.

Dave Hughes – Treasurer

### Coming Events

**Founders Day**— August 14 & 15 Farmers Market - Craft Fair – Bake Sale -Live music- Library puppet show—10:30 & Portrayer of history at 2:00, on Sunday 8-15-2004 children's games at 12:30-2:00-trivia quiz-Blue grass music and picnic in the park and don't forget the bake sale both days at the Cabin.

**Annual Cemetery Crawl**-8-28 & 8-29 as usual advance tickets are \$5.00 with tickets available at the Cemetery for \$7.00  
The Crawl will be held in Fairview Cemetery, 1000 South 26<sup>th</sup> Street – just 4 blocks from Old Colorado City - pioneers and colorful characters come alive as Society members and volunteers assume their identities and retell their stories during our **7th Annual Fairview Cemetery Crawl!** Costumed actors will be located by the gravesites of the individuals they are portraying. In addition to Laura Bell, visitors can meet Anthony Bott, Louis Unser, John G. Bock, a Civil War Veteran and other characters who spent time or found their final resting place in Old Colorado City. Hours are 2:00 – 5:00 pm both days.

### Old Colorado City Historical Society Mission Statement

Revised April 2004

**The Old Colorado City Historical Society was founded as a volunteer organization to recognize the historical significance and unique culture of original Old Colorado City and early El Paso County. This spirit is perpetuated through the preservation of artifacts and archival materials, encouragement of research, education of the children and the community, through the membership and the operation of the History Center at 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado.**

ported Colorado City's economy and their parents incomes.

The quality of writing and editing in the Aristocrat reveals that these children really learned to read and write well. The book displays a surprising maturity of style and content about what the kids called "Old Town High." The whole is quite professionally laid out and printed, even sporting a scenic 'Art Photo' hand pasted into the middle of the pages. The whole look and feel would do credit to any small college year book.

There are hints of high turnover, that kids would have to drop out of school, or not attend at all. Given the hard life in Colorado City, and the era in which 'children' had to work to help with family expenses, comments such as "we had lost eight of our best students" is no surprise.

An 'activity' for January 1915 is listed wherein the Senior Boys helped the Fire Department save a great part of the town from the conflagration.'

Of course there are whole sections on class and high school activities, from Sports, the Glee Club, exploring 'Huccocode [sic] Cave,' to the Senior Picnic at the 'Bruin Inn' which used to operate up Cheyenne Canyon. Lots of poetry in its pages, satirical and juvenile to serious. Girls were major contributors to the book.

Fielding competitive sports teams obviously was a major problem given the small number of students. All classes would have to turn out for football to make a full team. The results were not good against larger schools. But the baseball team enjoyed much success, winning 15 to 9 against 'Institute' for example. "For years we had the best team (in the League)"

a sports reporter bragged. There was basketball, boys and girls. And Tennis.

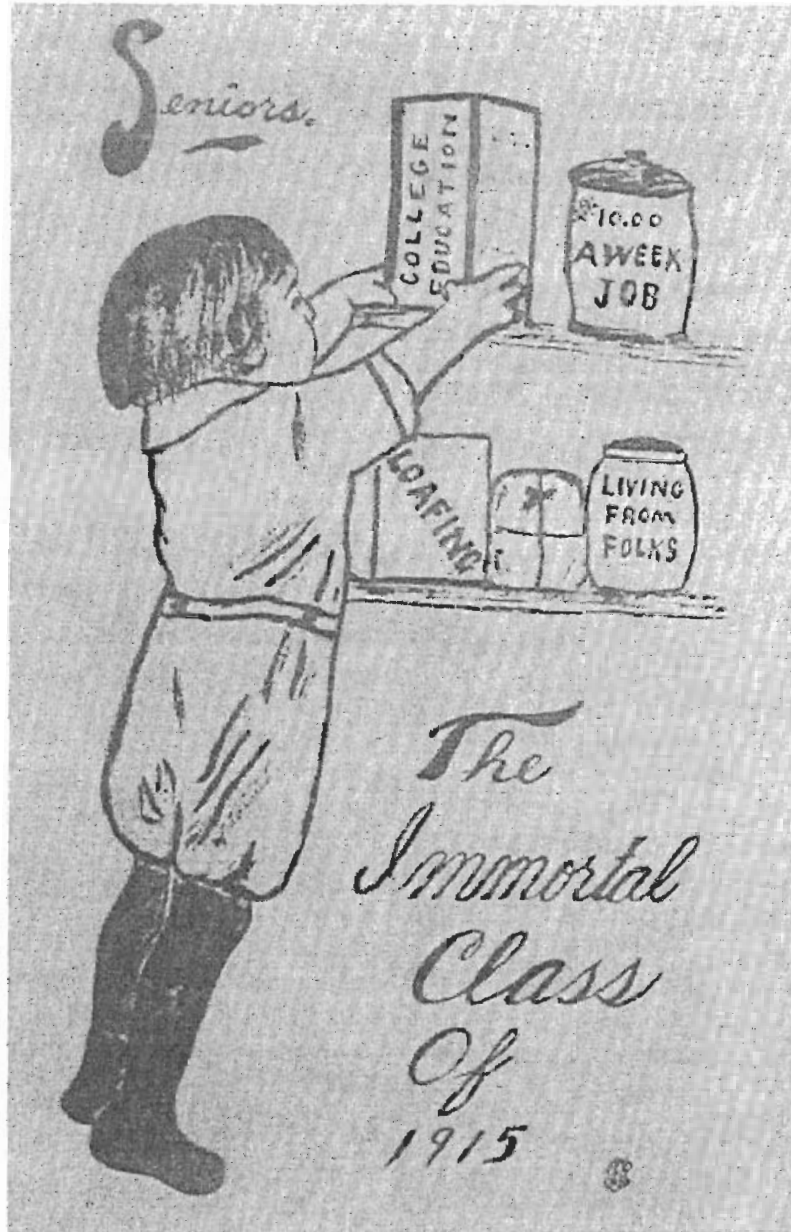
C.C.H.S even won a spelling bee 'Cup' beating Colorado Springs, and Cheyenne High Schools. There is lots of 'school spirit' in the pages, with enough good humor to laugh at themselves too. "Kathleen Grimm - Joke Editress, Glee Club, Senior Play - Has a mixture of oratory, hot air, push, and ability." She must have winced at that.

The Aristocrat was a big undertaking for a very small school. Given the fact that Colorado City, thus its separate school district, was dissolved two years later after years of decline, it may have been the last, perhaps only, Year Book from the school children of 'Old Town.'

But while it lasted Colorado City citizens and business supported "their" tiny high school which can be seen in early photographs of the Bancroft School to the right of the much larger structure. That is where Bancroft Park band shell now stands. There are no less than 13 pages of advertising supporting the book - and school. From a prestigious ad by 'First National Bank of Colorado City' - W. N. Armstrong,

Cashier and Martin Drake, President' to the more forthright - and very Old Town attitude - display ad with only the text "I Paid For This Add (sic) to Help Along C.C.H.S - Jackson Grocery, 503 Colorado Avenue"

Thanks Mr. Hampshire! You gave us a treasure.



## **TUESDAY NIGHTS IN JULY**

**Programs presented at  
Old Colorado City History Center  
1 South 24th Street  
(across from Bancroft Park)**

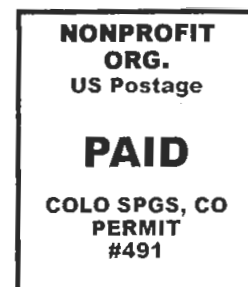
**7 p.m. at the History Center  
(doors open at 6:30 p.m.)  
Free, donations welcome**



- July 6 Katherine Lee Bates -  
Her Colorado Connection wrote song "America, the  
Beautiful" portrayed by Doris McGraw, local writer  
and storyteller**
- July 13 Zebulon Pike - His Mission and Adventures  
presented by John Patrick Michael Murphy, local  
Zeb Pike historian**
- July 20 Pioneers on the Santa Fe Trail presented by Mike  
and Patricia Olsen, local educators, Santa Fe Trail  
Association Board Member and Education  
Committee Chair**
- July 27 A "Walkabout!" - The Museum and Neighborhood  
presented by Jean Christopher and Museum tour  
guides**

**What a great way to spend a summer evening! Bring your friends  
and neighbors to visit our museum and bookstore! Light refresh-  
ments will be provided.**

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



### **President' Message**

**We would like to congratulate our new board members elected in June to two year terms. They are already hard at work getting ready for the summer festivities.**

**Congratulations: Arlene Casey - Bev Disch - LaRue Ebersole - Tom Hendrix - Joanne Karlson**

We had a successful Territory Days Memorial Weekend May 20-31. We took in \$521 in sales at the booth and made \$400 from the bake and plant sales in the cabin. Andy Fejedelem and Werner Kalson put up our tent and booth. Betsy Evans got the banks ready and opened the cabin and booth everyday. She also saw that the booth material was locked in the cabin each night and picked up the banks. Liz Geiss selected some of our artifacts to decorate the cabin.

.Our wonderful volunteers ran the booth, the cabin, and the bookstore all three days.

Thank you each and everyone, and not to forget, over twenty-five of our members baked goodies for the bake sale and produced 29 plants to sell. I really appreciate all that our members did to make this a winner for us.

Our next event that we are already planning will be our annual Founders' Day and Cemetery Crawl – August 28-29. We again will have the cabin open for our bake and plant sale. Entertainment a craft fair will be had. We are working with the Westside Library about their Carnegie Day on Saturday August 14, our volunteers will be conducting visits to the graves sites of our pioneer forefathers. Of course, there will be a visit to the Queen of the Tenderloin and soiled dove, Laura Belle. Let's invite all our friends to come out for this fund raiser. Tickets will be available at our book store for \$5.00 in advance and \$7.00 at the cemetery. Things are really happening of our Society. Come out, participate, and join in the fun.

Bev Disch, President