



OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 8

October 2004

GLORIETA PASS

Colorado City and the Civil War

Col(Ret) Dave Hughes

Few Civil War buffs, or Western Historians have ever heard about a decisive Civil War Campaign that was waged in the far western United States which shaped early Colorado, dealt a decisive blow to the aspirations of Colorado City, while at the same time dashing the grand plans of Jefferson Davis and the Confederacy to create a southwestern empire extending all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

So little is known about 'Bloody Valverde' or the 'Battle of La Glorieta Pass' - which some historians dubbed the 'Little Gettysburg of the West' - that it is even incorrectly identified in the West Point Military Museum as an 'Indian Wars' engagement.

The decisive three day La Glorieta battle, from Apache Canyon to Pigeon's Ranch was a classic Blue-Gray battle, with large 'western America' Civil War issues at stake, fascinating tactical details, daunting logistical and leadership problems. Its full of ironic twists, from a Union general's wife tending Confeder-

ate wounded in Santa Fe, ex-West Point cadet William Gilpin our first Territorial Governor saving Colorado for the Union but being fired for his troubles. And the un-

questioned hero of the Glorieta Battle - John Chivington - has ever been reviled in Colorado for the later 1864 Sand Creek Massacre even though killing raids by Indians around Colorado City had been stimulated by the Civil War and southerners' agitation of regional tribes!



Recruiting ad in the Colorado City Journal

only after I spent years researching the neglected history of Colorado City - writing its first brief history in 1977 - that I came to understand how much the west, Colorado, and even the fortunes of Colorado City were shaped by the Civil War.

The unimpeachable historical record shows that The 1st Colorado Volunteer Infantry Regiment - 'Pikes Peakers' - which was organized near Denver while Colorado City was still the first Capital of the Territory, force-marched on foot the last 92 miles of 300 in 36 hours in a snowstorm over Raton Pass, to meet and defeat an already-victorious, boastful, mounted Confederate 'Texas' Army twice its strength between March 24th and the 26th 1862.

It was just a coincidence that the 1859 Pikes Peak or Bust Gold rush in the West, happened just as the Civil

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Old Colorado City Historical Society
 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

WEST WORD

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 Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
 Or Merv Casey - thequill@adelphia.net

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF EACH MONTH

MISSION

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.

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	Joanne Karlson	719-475-2574
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	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
 October 8, 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.

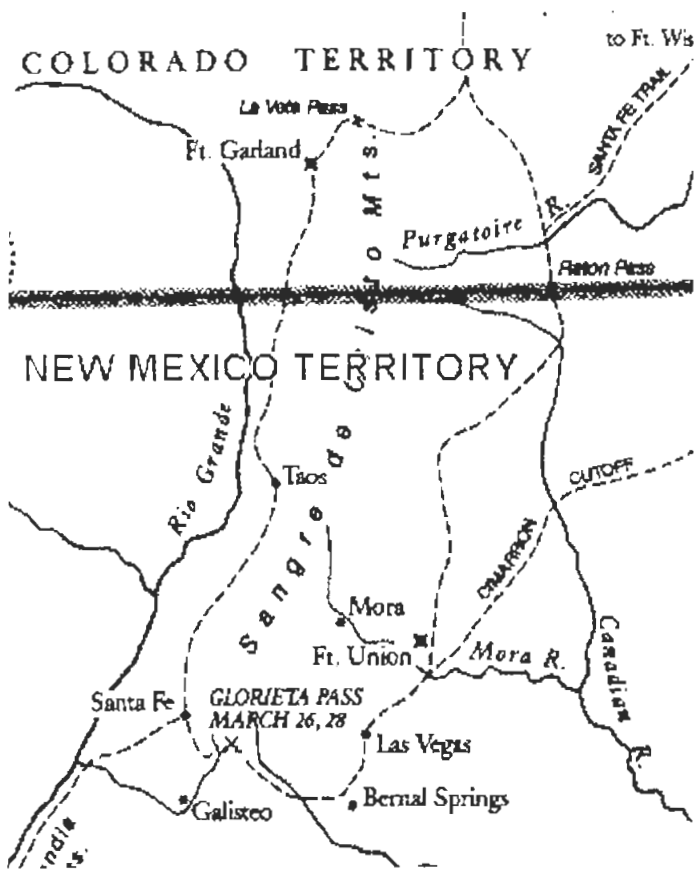
Closed Monday

Visit our web site for even more history!

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Map of the Battle Area

War was about to break out in the east. Thousands of gold seekers, spurred on by the findings in 1858 of gold along Cherry Creek, south of Denver, flooded westward by foot, wagon, horse, mule and even by wheelbarrow! By 1860 some 25,000 gold and fortune seekers had reached the front range of the Rocky Mountains. At least a quarter of those who came west were Southerners, many as committed to the Rebel cause as the majority along the Front Range were committed Unionists.

Colorado City had been organized right at the base of Pikes Peak and Ute Pass on August 12th, 1859. But one would have to go east 600 miles across the plains of Kansas Territory to record the legal title to one's land purchased from the Colorado City Town Company. Or to fetch a sheriff, much less a judge. There simply was no local or federal government on the wild Colorado frontier.

So the vigilante 'Claim Club' of Colorado City, together with men from Denver, banded together, went to Washington, lobbied Congress, which then carved out a new "Colorado Territory" from the mountainous West. Colorado City then out-hustled Denver City to be named the first Territorial Capital. Which made Denver mad. President Lincoln, having urged an experienced frontiersman, William Gilpin, to 'Save Colorado for the Union'

appointed him Territorial Governor. He arrived in May, 1861.

While this was going on in the far west, the war in the east was about to erupt.

But even before Fort Sumter was fired on, the Confederate leadership visualized a huge west-spanning southern empire. The empire was to incorporate - besides Texas - southern New Mexico, today's Arizona, and Southern California - which would give them access to the sea where the Federal Navy couldn't touch them.

The stories of gold finds in the new Colorado Territory, spawned an incredible plan by Henry Sibley - a hard drinking West Pointer from Texas - previously a Union officer who actually was still the Commander of Fort Union in northern New Mexico, which plan he sold to an already-convinced Jefferson Davis. He claimed he could, with a 4,000 man Army of mounted Texans invade Colorado via the Rio Grande through today's New Mexico, eating off the land, take over Colorado's capital, capture its gold and mines, bolster the Confederate Treasury, and consolidate the 'western empire.'

Now Governor Gilpin, learning of the planned invasion, and from his military experience in fighting Indians as a Dragoon officer, seeing the threat, quickly and boldly drew \$375,000 in promissory notes on the Federal Treasury



Union Commander Canby

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Little History Researcher's Wanted

The Board has approved trying to publish a series of 'Little Histories of Colorado City' over the next few years. Since we have been able to use our leased copier to, not only reproduce the John Bock Red Rock Canyon Book, but also reprint the 1977 Old Colorado City History, we know we can print – to order - in small quantities only as they sell, a whole series of short – from 12 to 24 page black and white illustrated books about aspects of the History of the original Colorado City, which can sell for only \$4 to \$8 apiece. With costs less than \$1.

We could use some volunteer to take on, research, and then draft the text of a Little History on any of the following discrete subjects, each of which could be treated in from 12 to 24 pages. Dave Hughes is right now doing one on 'Colorado City and the Civil War.' A small editorial committee can then double check the book's history from their knowledge or sources, edit and help layout for final proof, and help find pictures or sketches for it. The Researcher who makes the draft will be credited as the Author in the book.

An illustrated 16 page Little History can hold 3,000 words and 6 to 8 pictures, plus a cover. Now who will tackle one of these 'little history' topics? There are many more than these!

Golden Cycle Mill
 Schools of Colorado City
 The Glass Factory
 The El Paso Canal
 Saloons of Old Town
 The Midland Railroad
 Churches of Old Town
 Tunnels of Old Town
 Colorado City Lodges
 Newspapers of Colorado City
 Indian Raids
 The Horse Alleys of Old Town

Take your pick and let us know.

Coming Events

October Program (10-8-04) Dave Ehlert the Director of the Woodland Park Dinosaur center will present a program featuring the new center.

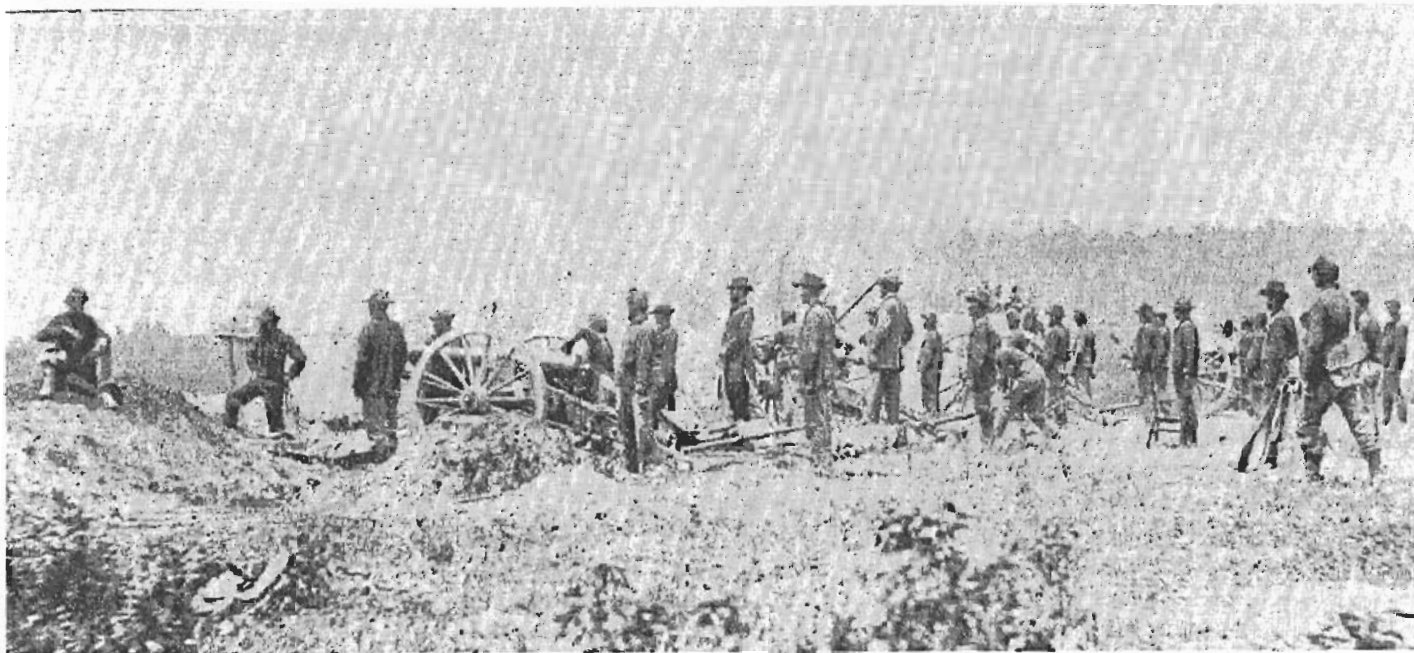
November Program (11-12-04) Mary Jane Rust will present one of her historical programs.

December the Bed and Breakfast tour featuring some of Old Colorado City, Colorado Springs and Ute Pass finest Victorian houses

President's Report

The aspens are turning golden yellow, kids are back in school, days are growing shorter as fall is upon us, and we are back to our monthly meetings at the history center. Planning will begin for our big fund raiser, our annual Bed and Breakfast Christmas Tour, Sunday December 5th. Pat Fejedelem says we will have ten or more inns participating this year. Our wonderful volunteers will help host some of these inns and, of course, bake delicious Christmas cookies for this event. Soon we will be getting out our Christmas decorations for the holiday season. Meanwhile, come out to see all the scarecrows out and about in Old Colorado City. Even we have our own scarecrow at our Center thanks to Larry and Kristine Van Wert. Do come hear David Ehlert tell us about the Dinosaur Center in Woodland Park at our Friday October 8th general meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

Bev Disch,
 President



The 1st Colorado

to equip a brand new unit – the 1st Colorado Volunteer Infantry Regiment. It was 1,200 strong but with not enough funds to buy horses and ride as a Cavalry unit. There was even a Recruiting Office in young Colorado City, for both ‘Company A’ and advertising for ‘Regimental Band’ musicians!

Meanwhile - also very little known today - was the fact that Southern sympathizers, after realizing they were outnumbered by angry Northerners, went underground to start a Guerilla War in Colorado! In fact, south of Pueblo at ‘Fort Wise’ – now Fort Lyon - the intrepid Marshall Townsend with the help of one Company of the 1st Colorado captured 42 Southern Confederates and their canon and marched them to Denver to be tried for treason! That Company camped in Colorado City. In a wonderful journal kept by Private Ovando Hollister, he tells about the shameful behavior of the soldiers in Colorado City, getting drunk and stealing chickens and pigs, with restitution being paid by their Captain.

But word got to Denver that the Confederates had bottled up Union Forces under Colonel Canby at Fort Craig in Southern New Mexico after a costly – for the Confederates – battle at Valverde and were advancing toward Albuquerque. The rambunctious 1st Colorado immediately assembled at Camp Weld and speed marched south, past Colorado City.

By the time the mounted Confederate Army arrived in Santa Fe, having experienced great difficulty ‘living off the land’ for the Hispanic New Mexicans both feared and hated the rough Texans, the 1st Colorado,

hard-as-nails prospectors, miners, independent and militarily undisciplined cusses, reached Fort Union. On foot. They got, ironically, the supplies wily Union Colonel - now a Confederate General - Sibley had stored there when he was the commander, in secret anticipation of seizing them as soon as his rebel forces blew past the scattered Union forces along the Rio Grande. The 1st Colorado even got the brand new repeating Henry Rifles. They also were itching for a fight.

Then in a classic two day battle starting in Apache Canon along the Santa Fe Trail over Glorieta Pass, east of Santa Fe on the southern extension of the Sangre de Cristo range, the 1st Colorado drove the leading units of the haughty mounted Texans back, who unfurled a Texas Lone Star, rather than Confederate, flag, stunning and capturing 80 of them. And then, outnumbered the boys in Blue were pushed back themselves the second day past Pigeon’s Ranch because Col Slough had boldly split his force, risking trying to envelop the larger Confederate force by sending Major Chivington and 480 Coloradoans around to their rear. Guided by Lt. Col. Manuel Chavez – later celebrated as the ‘Little Lion of the Southwest’ - of the New Mexico Militia through the very rough badlands, Chivington brilliantly succeeded. Descending, even rappelling, down cliffs, onto hundreds of supply wagons and 800 pack animals, he destroyed them all, leaving the Texas Army utterly destitute, in barren New Mexico!

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Sibley had no choice but to retreat – and while being pursued and harassed by the 1st Colorado 300 miles all the way back to Texas - the grand Confederate plans of Empire were dashed forever.

The First Colorado, then marched 600 miles back and encamped here in Colorado City November, 1863, for two winter months. While being outfitted with horses it rode off in January as the 1st Colorado Cavalry under then Colonel Chivington, who plunged into infamy a year later at Sand Creek.

But poor Colorado City! The Treasurer of the United States had told Gilpin he had had no ‘authority’ to commit federal funds. The Denver merchants held worthless script. President Lincoln fired him in the political uproar, even though his actions saved Colorado. The second Governor, Evans, who owned land in Denver, saw his chance, and sent his minions to steal the Territorial Capital for Denver!

So Colorado City, Gilpin, and the 1st Colorado Regiment which together won the most decisive battle in the Civil War in the West, lost the capital, his job, and the 1st Colorado disappeared into history. Its entire life as a spirited military unit was one great victorious campaign. It was dissolved, never to be honored properly around here. One cannon ball remains.

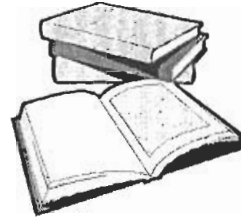
Now there is more, much more to this story. So I am writing a small book on Colorado City and the Civil War. I will attach it to a reproduction of the large (450 column inches, four big pages folio) – the only surviving issue – 18 - yellowed Colorado City Journal of November 28th, 1861. Its full of the Civil War and local Colorado City news and Patent Medicine ads. I own one of the only 4 originals in existence. No historians of Glorieta have ever seen this original source newspaper. The set will be available through our book store.

I also intend to publish, progressively, the complete story of Colorado City and the Civil War, with photographs and maps, on our Web site. www.history.oldcolo.com

Finally I hope to organize two day Historical Bus Tours from Old Colorado City over the Santa Fe trail to renovated Fort Union, a National Monument, and the Glorieta Battlefield. Where, as late as 1987, bodies in a mass grave of Confederate Soldiers were discovered and reburied – with a Confederate Ceremony no less, in Santa Fe.

Our society has now joined the New Mexico based Glorieta Battlefield Coalition – which even the Colorado Historical Society has not seen fit to join. As ever, Denver ignores the early history south of them.

But Colorado City remembers, and will honor it.



From the Bookstore

By Agnes Johnson

It is said that laughter is the best medicine. Several prominent people have attributed their recovery from a serious illness to doses of laughter.

If you are in need of chuckles the title of this little book, “Cow Chips Aren’t For Dippin”, will give a hint that laughter abounds in this delightful tongue-in-cheek.

The author, Coke Newell, has taken on the responsibility to correct the history of the west as we have been told. In his brief history of the west titles, “From You to Hither”, he asserts that there was a west before John Wayne! Indians, the old ones, were first. They built houses, grew stuff and developed hay fever. The author claims they left on Tuesday, left their houses to the National Park Service. Others went east to welcome Columbus and invited him to join them in Thanksgiving dinner. Next to arrive were the Frenchmen who caught beavers. During this period John Boy Walton wrote Centennial. Gold diggers, sod busters and Sonny & Cher came next. Today this land has been turned into vistas such as Vista Perdida, a subdivision. Then he discusses the arrival of the Mormons and then the army. Some went to California and started the movie industry and guess who was last (actress with initials J.F.) The rest of his history is now in local video stores. The true western states included Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Their attributes are not those we normally associate with those states, but then he gives us an incentive to look more closely for those to be found.

National Parks are “must see” places in the West. He includes Lake Powell for its unique bikinis. To acquire the “look” he addresses the proper attire so that you will not be confused and recognize the

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Memories of yore

By Arlene Casey

From Colorado Springs Gazette, Saturday April 25,

USE YOUR TELEPHONE

Quality Service Stores



SATURDAY FEATURES

Campbell Soups ALL KINDS -CAN 11c

Sugar 10 lbs. 73c

BUTTER Fancy Creamery lb. 45c

- POST TOASTIES (large) 16c
- DERN'S MAYONNAISE, jar ... 35c
- AMERICAN BEAUTY (Macaroni, Spaghetti, etc.) 2 for ... 15c
- PEARS (med. size) 2 cans 55c
- PORK & BEANS (med. size) 3 cans 35c
- IVORY SOAP (large) 2 for ... 25c
- ROYAL LEMON (washing powder) pkg. 25c
- CREME OIL SOAP, 4 bars ... 25c
- LETTUCE (solid heads) 10c
- SPINACH (cleaned) 4 lbs. 25c
- ASPARAGUS (selected) 2 lbs. 25c
- GREEN ONIONS, doz. 15c
- NEW SPUDS 25c
- CADDY CRAX, 1/2 42c
- IODIZED SALT, pkg. 15c
- LAUNDRY SOAP, 7 bars 25c
- BACON (fancy) lb. 40c
- POT ROASTS (fancy) lb. 18c
- LIVER (fresh) 2 lbs. 25c

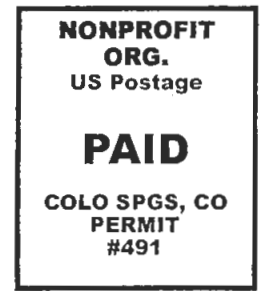
There's a Quality Service Store Handy to You

- Hall & Dunn No. 1
731 W. Colorado Ave. Phone 876
- Keystone Grocery and Market No. 2
112 S. Tejon St. Phones 117-136-310
- Geo. B. Robinson Grocery No. 4
108 Canon Ave., Manitou Phone Hyland 16
- Knorr's Market Company No. 6
123 N. Tejon St. Phones 2602-2603
- Sanitary Market No. 7
2508 W. Colorado Ave. Phone 1500
- Premium Grocery and Market No. 8
1431 W. Colorado Ave. Phones 341-342
- Harter's Grocery No. 9
749 E. Wilanette Phones 1958-1959
- W. L. Smith No. 11
501 N. Wabatch Phones 73-74

We want to thank Goodwill for sending us a handicapped person, Daniel, to work at the History Center doing custodial work.

We want to thank City Glass Company, 414 W. Colorado, for donating a large sheet of glass for one of our display tables.

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



“characteristics of actual cowboys”.

In his chapter on entertainment are all sorts of good suggestions for fully enjoying your visit with suggestions like “mutton busting”, manure toss, greased pig chase and a trip to the snack bar.

The cartoon accompanying each chapter are equally as amusing as the contents of the book. Ben Desoto does a great job. I have been laughing so hard trying to write this that I just might skip my next doctor’s appointment – I feel so healthy.

August Treasurer’ Report

August was a good month.

Our Cemetery Crawl netted us \$955 with no direct costs. Founders Day netted us only \$290, because although we had a Bank Grant of \$500, the Craft Fair brought in \$475 and the Bake Sale \$100, we were stung by the City for \$270 for Park Rental and Vendor’s Fee, and required to pay \$515 for two days of Liability Insurance. We will have to change Insurance Companies if that keeps up.

We gained \$410 in memberships, and were paid \$45 for doing 3 hours research at \$10 an hour, plus a photo cost, about an early Sheriff in Colorado City.

Betsy Evans, our Bookstore manager reported sales of \$375. We were given a generous \$5,000 grant toward Digitizing our collection, by Shirley Bonds, who owned Peerless Printing Company in Old Colorado City until the 1980s. She also took out a Life Membership.

At the end of August we had \$17,554 in the Bank.

The State sent us a letter approving our last Cabin reimbursement, of \$6,850, which we will be paid and appear on the September books.

Dave Hughes
Treasurer