

WEST



WORD

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 2

February 2005

CARNEGIE'S LEGACY

Carnegie Libraries –A Legacy that will Live Forever

Gordon Gray

All my life I have had an interest in libraries. They are facilities where there are books and other educational materials that can be used by the general public, but they are also physical structures that were built for the people by the local city/town government, a private organization, or the gift of individuals or companies. As a genealogist, I have spent endless hours doing research in libraries all over the United States, and as a part of each of my library trips I try to find time to talk with the librarians and learn some of the history of the building and the library.

I had never lived in a community where there was a Carnegie Library, so when my wife and I moved to Colorado Springs in 1992, I was pleased to see not only one Carnegie library in the community, BUT THREE! Yes, there are Carnegie Libraries in Colorado Springs; in Old Colorado City (originally Colorado City when the library was built); and in Manitou Springs. All of these libraries are fine facilities and serve their communities well. The Carnegie Library in downtown Colorado Springs and the Old Colorado City Branch Library are a part of the Pikes Peak Library District.

After moving to Colorado Springs, I wanted to find out more about Andrew Carnegie, who was the benefactor of 2,809 libraries, of which 1,946

were located in the United States. There was at least one Carnegie library in every state except Rhode Island. There were 660 in Great Britain and Ireland, and 156 in Canada. A handful of libraries were also scattered in places like New Zealand, the West Indies and Fiji.

So, who was this Andrew Carnegie? Where was he born? What was his family life like? What was his career? Where did he get the money to build and donate over 1,900 libraries in the USA?

Carnegie was born November 25, 1835 in Scotland. His family immigrated to America in the late 1840s, and he was a poor immigrant boy. In his youth, he had a little bit of luck when he went to work in the industrial business field. At the turn of the century, America's industrial segment was booming and Carnegie was thriving. He worked in the telegraph field, the railroad industry, and the oil and steel businesses. He made a fortune and in 1901, at the age of 66, he was the world's richest man. He wanted to become a philanthropist, who is a person giving money to good causes. Carnegie believed in the "Gospel of Wealth," which meant that wealthy people were morally obligated to give their money back to others in society.

The first Carnegie Library was built in Dunfermline, Scotland in 1881. This was Mr. Carnegie's native city and an endowment was given with the library. This initial gift was so well received that Carnegie made plans to give libraries to other towns. Of the

Continued on page 3

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

WEST WORD

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY
THE OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
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LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTIFACTS AND STORIES CAN BE DELIVERED
TO THE OCCHS CENTER OR MAILED TO:

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Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
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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	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
	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
February 14, 2005
at the History Center



Explore the REAL History at the **OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORY CENTER**

1 South 24th Street
(the corner of Pikes Peak & 24th Streets)
(719) 636-1225

FREE ADMISSION

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

Winter Hours

(June – September)

TUES – SUN 11 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Closed Monday

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2,809 libraries that Carnegie constructed, there were only five that were endowed; the hometown communities, of these libraries, were not required to publicly subsidize their libraries (but such subsidy was encouraged). All of the other towns which received a library gift from Andrew Carnegie were required to subsidize their library with an annual amount that equaled ten percent of the original cost of the building. This financial arrangement soon became known as "The Carnegie Formula."

On April 20, 1899, Carnegie executed a Declaration of Trust agreement which legally established the Andrew Carnegie Free Library. He stated that the library shall be free to the people forever.

How did Colorado City get a Carnegie Library? In

January 1902, a request came from Mr. Leo Beyle, President of the Chamber of Commerce in Colorado City to the Honorable William H. Teller, one of Carnegie's secretaries. The request was that Teller speak to Mr. Carnegie about funding a library building in Colorado City.

In January 1903, the Colorado City Chamber received a letter from Carnegie expressing his interest in donating a building. In March of that year, the city received a letter from Carnegie stating that if the city would provide a site and \$1,000 a year for maintenance, he would give \$10,000 for a library building.

There were many sites considered for this new library. The Bancroft School property was suggested

as a site and Anthony Bott offered to donate land near the Midland shops. There was a petition circulated in the city opposing the Bancroft school site and it was decided that the school site would not be used. The Christian Church property at 417 Lincoln Avenue (now 2418 West Pikes Peak Avenue) was purchased as a library site for \$2,600. The amount of \$2,000 came from the city and \$600 from donations. The city approved \$1,000 annually for maintenance.



The picture was taken in 1906 and was a post card of the Go Ahead Club, and part of their travel brochure in the collection at OCCHS

In June 1903, George Bryson was selected as the architect. The choice of architectural style was the single most important issue many communities faced who received Carnegie library grants. There were many factors that could influence the decision, but the

final choice was usually based on which style was thought to be the most appropriate. The final decision was usually made by committee or by polling the entire community. The Colorado City architecture style is Carnegie Classical and there were 250 libraries built in this style. Construction of the library in Colorado City began late in 1903 and by February 1904, the first story was completed

A library had been started in Colorado City in 1895. It was located in the W.C.T.U building, 410 West Colorado Avenue (now 2411 West Colorado Avenue) and named after Mrs. Lydia Wood who donated \$1,000. The library boards of the Woods Library and the new Carnegie Library had many disputes over the future of the libraries. The Woods library

board won these disputes and this library became a part of the Carnegie library when the new library opened on December 7, 1904. The former Woods library board became the board of the Carnegie Library with legal authority.

When Colorado Springs annexed Colorado City in 1917, the books and the Carnegie Library building were bought for \$1 by the Colorado Springs Public Library. The Carnegie building became known as the West End branch.

The Carnegie Library in Old Colorado City is a branch of the Pikes Peak Library District and serves the Westside Community of Colorado Springs. Like the Carnegie Library in downtown Colorado Springs, it has been in continual use as a library since its construction. This is a milestone that most Carnegie Libraries around the nation have not reached. The Old Colorado City Library predates the library in downtown by about five months and is located in an area that was originally its own separate municipality.

The Old Colorado City Carnegie Library is a venerable, classic structure. It has been designated a contributing building to the Old Colorado City Historical District. Years of inadequate funding for the maintenance of the building have allowed it to fall into a state of disrepair. Over the years, there have been several attempts at structural repairs and this has hidden the original charm and beauty of the building. The many changes have not provided a permanent result.

The success of the campaign to restore the downtown Carnegie Library building in 2002 has proven the Pikes Peak Library District's dedication to preserving the history of the Colorado Springs community for the benefit of the future generations. The Old Colorado City Carnegie Library serves a proud and well established neighborhood that provides a significant history for our region. The preservation of this library building is an integral piece of the West-Side history and is a passion of many who live in this neighborhood.

The Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees

has endorsed a library improvement plan that includes some funds for the preservation of the Old Colorado City Carnegie Library. To complete the preservation project, a volunteer citizens committee has been formed to focus on fundraising efforts. This committee hopes to raise all of the project costs through private fundraising and grant efforts. The projected cost for the project, inclusive of funds for maintenance, is about \$1.7 million. Phase I of this improvement project started in 2004 and consisted of repairs to the stone foundation; tuck point repairs to the exterior brick and masonry, restoration of the exterior windows, the restoration of the exterior main entry doors, and the rebuilding of the exterior main stone staircase. Phase II (from 2004-2007) will consist of upgrading the exterior and interior lighting; replacing the carpeting; wood wainscoting; bringing in additional electrical power; repair/replace the lower and main level ceilings; repainting the entire interior; and replacing the air-conditioning units.

The preservation of the Old Colorado City Carnegie Library will promote local history and architectural education for children and adults. It will return the building to its original character and will serve as a model of historic architectural preservation. This project will increase the public awareness of the importance of historic preservation in our area.

There were thirty-seven Carnegie Libraries built in Colorado. Today, there are seventeen still functioning as libraries; five are museums; several are in use as businesses and community centers. Sadly, eight have been razed and several closed.

The Pikes Peak Library District will host two community planning meetings on the Old Colorado City Carnegie Library preservation project on Tuesday, February 15th at 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. These meetings will be held at the library, 2418 West Pikes Peak Avenue. Additional information can be obtained about this project by calling the library's branch manager, Julianne Rist, at 719-634-1698.

Memories of yore

By
Arlene Casey & Jan Knox

The Iris - December 1, 1894

To Our Friends

The Iris is hard up and needs cash. If you are indebted to us help us if you can. If you want to encourage us in our efforts for the upbuilding of Colorado City, come in and pay a year in advance for The Iris. New subscribers solicited.

W. P. Epperson & Co.

We hear that a second coal mine will soon be opened north of town W. S. Beach and wife of New York, who were visiting in the city last week have returned to their home.

Mrs. C. H. Baker, town treasurer, has gone to Fargo, Dakota on a visit.

If the hair has been made to grow a natural color on bald heads in thousands of cases by using Hall's Hair Renewer why will it not in your case.

A rumor, probably growing out of the shooting at Divide reached this city yesterday to the effect that one Rapp, a well known saw mill man had been shot and killed at Florissant. The numerous cures of rheumatism by the use of the old standard blood puriner, Aver's Sarsaparilla, show conclusively that it is an effective remedy if not indeed the specific, for the most painful and persistent of maladies. What has cured others will also cure you.

Informations were filed in the County court yesterday against John Nolon of Manitou for keeping a gambling house. A case brought by the Humane society against Curtis et al. for abusing a horse and that had been dismissed was started again by a new information being filed.

Dinner parties were numerous Thursday. Almost everyone had an invitation to dine, who were not entertaining

A dog, a negro and a white man gave an exhibition on the avenue Tuesday. The race between the dog and negro was very exciting.

At a shooting match east of town Thanksgiving day, Colorado City marks men got eleven turkeys while Colorado Springs men got three.

There is considerable excitement over the gold find in West Colorado Springs. It is said that one man is sacking the dirt from his lot and shipping it to the smelter.

This is for the school children. Hrifker & co. will give away every Monday morning to every school boy or girl one fancy

slate pencil free by calling at their store.

Jesse Jackson is contemplating trading for a farm near Loveland Colo. If the trade goes through he will move his family onto the place and take up the life of a ranchman.

A H. Gibbs departed for Roswell, New Mexico, Sunday morning via the Santa Fe. Harry hopes to find work at his trade in the region in and about Roswell which is now booming.

N. L. Huxley is contemplating moving to the Pecos Valley, down in New Mexico in the near future. He informs us that he will close his livery barn here on December 1st.

The musicale to be given at the First Baptist church on Wednesday evening Dec. 5th, promises to be highly entertaining. The very best talent of our city has been secured and a number of fine artists from Colorado Springs, who have not appeared here will take part in the entertainment.

Thomas McGerrick a brakeman on the Colorado Midland, while coupling cars at Florissant Tuesday, was caught between the bumpers and instantly killed. The remains were brought to this city and embalmed. The body was shipped to the old home of the deceased at Bloomington Ill, for burial Thursday morning. He left a wife and two children to mourn his loss. They accompanied the remains East. They have the sympathy of the whole community.

The other evening we heard a good story told on Henry Ettithorpe, the popular watchmaker of the firm of Pond & Ettithorpe of this city. A party of ladies were telling of their experience on crowded street cars. A young lady said that the last story reminded her of Mr. Ettithorpe's experience of the World's Fair, and told the following, prefacing the recital by vouching for the truth of the story. "Mr. Ettithorpe had arrived in Chicago the night before and was up bright and early, (for him) the next morning to visit the great show at Jackson Park. The street cars were so crowded that he allowed a number to pass his corner ere he mustered courage to get on. At last, seeing that each car was more crowded than the one that had preceded it he determined to make a trial and get a foot and hand hold on the next one that came along. He succeeded in "catching on" and found a place to put one foot. Just as the car started a lady rushed from the side of the street and attempted to board the car. There was no room for her, but she was not of the kind that would be left without an effort. As the car passed she made a grab for the tail of Herry's best frock coat. The speed of the car increased, so did the strain on the garment that encased the upper part of Henry's magnificent form. Henry shouted for the woman to let loose but she would not. He was afraid of falling should he let loose and so he hung on for life. At las the strain was too great for even imported goods and the tail parted from the body of the coat. When the car stopped Henry got off and went back for the remainder of his coat, which the woman dropped in the street when the goods gave way. Before reaching the spot where the remnant lay the woman had boarded another car and sailed past him on her way to the big show. It took a tailor a half day to repair the damages and Henry did not have time to go out to the fair that day."

I am proud the Pikes Peak Library District has recognized the historical importance of the Carnegie libraries and has taken the necessary steps to preserve these outstanding facilities not only for the citizens of our community today but for future generations. The preservation of this library building is a major step in keeping the history of Old Colorado City alive.

Sources:

"Chronology of the Old Colorado City Carnegie", PPLD date unknown.

"Old Colorado City Carnegie Library Campaign", PPLD, 2004

"You Had to Ask", Pittsburgh City Paper, 1999

"The Carnegie Formula and Early Carnegie Libraries", Walsh, 1998-1999

"Carnegie Libraries Across America", Theodore Jones, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1997

The Old Caboodle Tom Hendrix

A New 23rd Psalm

The Ford is my auto, I shall not want. It makes me to lie down in muddy roads; it leadeth me into trouble; it draweth on my purse; I go into paths of debt for its sake. Yea; though I understand my Ford perfectly; I fear much evil lest the radius rod or the axle might break; it hath a blowout in the presence of mine enemies. I anoint the tire with a patch. The radiator boileth over. Surely this thing will not follow me all the days of my life or I shall dwell in the house of poverty forever.

Moral: Equip your Ford with one of the new improved cuckoo clocks. When the car reached a speed of 25 miles per hour the bird will come out and sing, "Nearer My God to The," and at 40 miles an hour, "Lord, I Am Coming Home.

From the Luther McKnight Collection

January Treasurer's Report

2005 has started out well. Your Board has approved a Budget that expects \$24,000 in revenue. Unless there is an unexpected windfall, or unexpected costs, we will end the year with at least \$20,000 in the bank in our general accounts, and \$70,000 drawing interest, in our Endowment fund.

We expect revenue from another Victorian Tea, a Garden and Plants show in June in Bancroft Park, a Territory Days Booth, the Cemetery Crawl, and another Bed and Breakfast program in December.

We already, in January received a surprise gift. The 8th Street Wall-Mart, through their Charitable Foundation, on the recommendation of an employee who was impressed with our operations, gave us a \$499 grant.

Last minute Christmas sales in the Book Store permitted Betsy Evans, our bookstore manager to transfer \$800 to our general account representing the year's surplus. Up from the \$600 we expected.

While we have to take it a step at a time, for lack of a technical committee we hope to make it easy for anyone outside Colorado Springs to browse our bookstore's holdings online, with graphical pictures of the book's cover, and short reviews. Remote browsers can buy the books online through a simple, reliable, and secure credit card system using the more advanced version of PayPal that has been optimized for very small operations like ours. With no up front or running costs, and only a 3% fee per transaction.

The web site continues to bring us revenue. We just received \$240 for the rights for McGraw Hill to run two pictures in Children's school books they found out of the 15,000 photographs we have accessible online. One was a Soap Box Race car on the Westside from the Current Collection and another showing a D&RG ore train going into Ophir station the last time, from the Ellis Collection. We charge \$100 for the one time rights to use our pictures in publications by others.

While I have no new projections, it is clear to me that we are getting new members from the fall out of our Speakers Programs Joanne Karlson has put on. The last program by Don Ellis had nearly 100 attendees, with standing room only. Keep it up, Joanne. The cash register jingles.

Our costs remain constant, except the Utility bill, with the new rates, going through the roof - \$368 in January - even when we have the heat turned down to 60 degrees automatically when the center is not open.

Dave Hughes
Treasurer

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**COMING EVENTS
AT THE HISTORY CENTER**

Friday, February 11

10 a.m. Social Hour & Museum Visitation
11 a.m. General Meeting & Program
Nancy Thaler, Special Collections Department at the Pikes Peak Library, will present a look at historical photography she used in her collaboration to prepare "*Reflections of the Pikes Peak Region*", a perpetual calendar available in our museum bookstore.

Saturday, February 26

2 p.m. Program: **The Midland Railroad** presented by Mel McFarland, OCCHS member and well-known Midland Railroad historian. Come early for a seat!

Friday, March 11

10 a.m. Social Hour & Museum Visitation
11 a.m. General Meeting & Program
Historic character actor **Richard Marold** will portray **Winfield Scott Stratton** and relate Stratton's connections to Old Colorado City. \$3 donation, please.