



OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 5

MAY 2005

WHERE WERE THEY?

The Depot Mystery
By Mel McFarland

In looking at modern day Colorado Springs, some communities, like Colorado City, have been gobbled up by our large neighbor. Some of these died out before the town grew over them, like Breed and Pikeview. Some 15 railroad stations stood at various spots inside what is now the city limits of Colorado Springs today, there were two in Colorado City four in Manitou! The mystery is about the first railroad station in the area.

In nearly every history of the Denver & Rio Grande, and Colorado Springs, one building is overlooked. What was the first D&RG's depot? The common answer uses a picture of the "Log Cabin". The fact is, that is not it. It was somewhere near by, but what did it look like? Let's take a look at this sequence of events.

Regular D&RG service from Denver to Colorado Springs started on January 1, 1872. A rustic depot would have to suffice as station until a more per-



Colorado City Depot for the Midland Rail Road

manent structure could be erected. The picture which shows the "Log Cabin" is often given as the railroad station, however it was built even before the railroad. It was a temporary building used until a larger facility was ready. It served as an eating house and hotel for the railroad builders and eventually guests visiting the town site. It was likely the first true building in Colorado Springs.

The railroad construction crews had worked south along Monument Creek and then Fountain Creek toward Pueblo, when weather permitted. Once spring conditions improved construction resumed on the railroad south from Colorado Springs. The track layers finished the line into Pueblo on the afternoon of June 19. On June 29, 1872 the first D&RG passenger train arrived. A crude station was located northeast of Pueblo, on the Fountain River, near where Mineral Palace Park is today. The D&RG paused before building any further. No further railroad was built for various reasons including the "Panic of '73", but a few parcels of land were purchased.

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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
	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
May 13, 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 projects. Please call 636-1225 for information

Winter Hours
 (September – June)

TUES – SAT 11 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Closed Sunday & 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

Back to Colorado Springs, we have only a little information on the railroad's depot. No known photograph exists prior to 1887, when the small stone building, which survives today as the central portion of the building, was opened. There are several drawings that date between 1872 and 1887; they are called Birds Eye Views. These show the Colorado Springs community, and the Pikes Peak Region's growth. Each one shows a simple building with a basic freight platform. The earliest one dates from the 1870's and shows the "depot" west of the tracks. Another view shows a similar building, now on the east side of the tracks not far from the center of town.

There are a couple of things we know: the earliest insurance maps for Colorado Springs (1883) shows only a rough rectangle on the "depot grounds". The location shown is just south of where the 1887 building was built. The state had a taxing entity which inventoried railroad buildings, land and equipment. It is no help because it started after 1887. In 1890 they show a wooden baggage and express building north of the 1876 building. The stone freight, baggage portion was added in 1901, as a separated building to the south. Eventually this building was attached as the 1887 building was expanded to its later footprint. This is largely the surviving structure known as Guiseppe's Depot. So does anybody have an answer to what the real first depot on the D&RG at Colorado Springs looked like? Or have an idea where one might find out?

So back to the Log Cabin, what happened to it? There is some tales that the building moved with the end of track, but others indicate that a new one was built each time a new town was started. The railroad was stalled at Pueblo for a year. Palmer wanted to extend the D&RG to Trinidad. A survey team started working south, but the income situation was still frightening. In June, 1873 an attempt was made to start construction but it was stopped almost immediately by lack of money. Thirty-six miles would have to wait until money was available.

In October, 1874 plans were ready for the restart of the construction from Pueblo toward El Moro. The

new D&RG's town of Cucharas, east of Walsenburg, was reached in February. The little camp was destined for failure. A community to the west, which was originally called La Plaza de Los Leones was settled by Don Miguel Antonio Leon in 1859. The area was flourishing in 1870 when Fred Walsen was operating a trading post. The settlement grew and the name Walsen's or Walsenburg was being used. The town's location had more to offer than Cucharas, and a better environment.

When the railroad arrived at Cucharas so did the "log Cabin". The D&RG construction reached El Moro, near Trinidad in April. It was named by Governor Hunt's initial survey team because of the impressive sight of Fisher's Peak in the distance. It reminded them of the appearance of Moro Castle, the fortress at Havana Cuba. One of the first structures was "The Log Cabin", operated by former Territorial Colorado Governor, and closer associate to Palmer, A.C. Hunt's sister.

Back to Colorado Springs, there are actually few good early pictures of the town. In the fifteen years before the construction of the later station, surely someone took some pictures of the station! One last bit of curiosity, it was the arrival of the rival Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe to get the Rio Grande going to build their new stone station. The Santa Fe used the Rio Grande between Pueblo and Denver from 1880 until 1887. Why, is a story in itself. But they eventually started building their own line. When they got to Colorado Springs they built a fine little stone station. Not to be out done, the D&RG unveiled plans for their own fine station.

Even in Colorado City, we had two railroad stations for the D&RG line to Manitou. The first is said to have been near present day 25th or 26th Street and Cucharas. Not only do we not know exactly where it was, but there is not known a picture of it. This one was replaced in the late 1890's by a building on the south end of 22nd. Even this building is not represented by a good picture in our collection. The two Colorado City railroad stations, the Rio Grande's and the Midland's both burned down in the cold winter of 1931.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AT MAY 13 GENERAL MEETING

Four new OCCHS Board members are to be elected for a two-year term.

Outgoing members are Kay Atteberry, Bob Heinich, David Hughes, and Betty Magninie.

The nominating committee of Betty Baker, Betsy Evans, and Joanne Karlson present the following candidates for election.

Kay Atteberry – Incumbent Board member; active OCCHS fundraising committee member; active community volunteer, including AAUW, Zoo docent, and timekeeper for a softball league; retired teacher.

Leland Feitz – Local historian; author of many books about Colorado history, especially Cripple Creek and El Paso County; longtime member of OCCHS and resident on the Westside and in Cripple Creek; bookstore volunteer; retired.

David Hughes – Incumbent Board member and treasurer; Colorado historian; longtime Westside resident and OCCHS member; advocate for preservation of Old Colorado City neighborhood and its history; manages OCCHS website and technology; retired military.

"Mel" McFarland – Railroad historian, especially the Midland; writes weekly column in the *Westside Pioneer*; Pikes Peak Cog Railway employee; grew up on the Westside; longtime OCCHS member and former Board member; retired teacher.

Treasurer's Report March

March, still a winter month, was slow. Although Book Store sales were \$388.25

And we had \$131 in cash box donations, as those who attended our free programs arranged by Joanne Karlson have been generous on their way out the door.

The Paypal system is up and running. It has been offered to be used for advanced \$18 ticket sales for the Victorian Tea.

The first user of our Paypal online ordering system was from a very special lady – Judy Yarbrough, Huntsville, Alabama. She found our Web Site online, saw we were selling numbered Commemorative Log slices from the Bancroft Cabin. She bought #27 for \$25 using her browser, our web site, her credit card, and Paypal. The transaction cost us only \$1.17. That would be pretty ordinary but Judy is the great, great, granddaughter of Dr. James Garvin, the 1860 occupant of that Cabin! Excited that she found us through the Internet, the Cabin, and the fragments from it, she is sending lots of information about him, including pictures. She may buy, online, more slices for her brothers as gifts. Her piece of the cabin Dr. Garvin practiced medicine in is on the way! From low tech logs from 1859, to high tech shopping in 2005.

We at least dropped below \$300 in our Utility Bill which was \$299 in March.

Unfortunately Insurance rates are rising, so we are now paying \$131 a month, up from just over \$100.

But we have renewed our Copier lease for 2 years, and it will cost us \$30 a month less.

Time marches on. We await spring activities.

Dave Hughes
Treasurer

RETURNING THE HORSES

By Lawrence (Duke) Van Wert

My Grandparents owned two horses, but there were times when two horses just weren't enough to get the job done. Horses were sometimes lent and borrowed, so the jobs could get done.

My Grandfather borrowed two horses from Robert Bedeau. Jim Stand, a neighbor from up the road, wanted to borrow the horses when we were finished with them. Robert asked if Grandpa could take the horses to Jim Strand's place after we were done with them. Of course he agreed. I asked if I could go along to take the horses. And of course like the good Grandpa he was, he said, "of course, my boy".

We finished with the horses late in the afternoon so we cleaned them up and brushed them down with brushes and a curry comb, gave them some oats and hay, and put them in the barn for the night.

We awoke early so we could get breakfast, and water the horses good before we left. The horses had a good drink and I rubbed them down with a brush, and we set out for Jim Stand's place. It was about three miles or more to Jim Strand's house from our house. My Grandfather let me lead one of the horses, while he lead the other one. As we walked along, I asked some questions much the way a lot of kids do. Like, why do you have to plow the ground to plant things. Or why does the ground get so slippery when it rains? His normal answer to my questions, was, "that's the way things just happen son". I somehow never questioned his knowledge or his answers. I just knew he was right.

When we arrived at Jim Stand's house, he was waiting for us. He offered us a cup of tea which we accepted. After finishing our tea, we said good-bye and started our walk back to the

house. Grandpa knew that Jim Stand had a lot of work to get done and we couldn't hold him up, so we didn't stay any longer then we should. Grandpa said it was only right that we have tea with him so he could show his appreciation to us for bringing the horses to him.

That trip with those horses was a most memorable day in my young life and it was enjoyable. Even though it was a job, it didn't seem like work. I had a great time and I got to spend some good quality time with my Grandpa.

Calling all Crafters

We are going to have a craft work session on May the 20th to create unique items to sell, as a money making project, at our first annual Garden Fair — If you have arts and crafts experience we would sure like to see you, if you have no experience come along and learn how it is done. The session will be from 10 AM to 2 PM lunch will be served.

For more information please call Arlene Casey 634-2356

If you have any ideas they would be more than welcome. Really

Old Colorado City Historical Society

Hosts the 4th Annual Victorian Tea and Fashion Show

Where: Old Colorado City History Center
1 South. 24th Street, Old Colorado City,
Colorado Springs

When: Saturday, April 30th, 2005
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Cost: \$18.00 – Advance Ticket Sale Only

Victorian Fashion Show: A “History of American Ladies’ and Men’s Fashions” will be presented by Rita Wilhelm and her Victorian models as they feature attire from yesteryear. Relive memories of “genteel” times with these historically accurate costumes - from day gowns to formal evening wear.

Door prizes and special entertainment will add to a fun-filled afternoon. Enjoy assorted tea sandwiches, delectable desserts, and, of course, tea! **Doris McGraw** will be the Mistress of Ceremonies.

All proceeds will benefit the Old Colorado City Historical Society.

Businesses donating services and door prizes are:

**Bernideen’s,
Cat Bird Seat Tea Room,
Goodwill Industries,
The Holly Leaf,
Island Orchids,
Rocky Mt. Chocolate Factory,
Sno-White Linen Co.**

- **Tickets may be purchased in advance** for \$18.00 at Old Colorado City History Center,
- 1 S. 24th Street, Old Colorado City, 719-636-1225.

Credit Card purchases may be made at the History Center, or **on line** by April 26.

Seating is limited. Go to history.oldcolo.com

Information: 636-1225

Wanted Crafters and Volunteers

1st Annual Garden Fair & Crafts in the
Park
Fundraiser for the History Center

Saturday, June 11, 2005 at Bancroft Park,
8 a.m. til 4 p.m.

Opening day of the Farmer’s Market is June 11, OCCHS will rent spaces in Bancroft Park for crafters as well as groups or businesses to sell plants, garden decoratives, and other related items. OCCHS needs volunteers to work in our booth and sell plants (to make a profit). Come have fun and help make this fundraiser a success!

Please contact Joanne Karlson at 475-2574 or Bev Disch at 634-5023 if you are available to help or want more information. If you have any nice “gently used” garden items you wish to donate for the Garden Fair please drop off at the History Center.

If you are a member of a group or business who would like to rent a space, application forms will be at the History Center or contact Joanne.

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

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COMING EVENTS **AT THE HISTORY CENTER**

Saturday April 30

Annual Victorian Tea and Style Show at the History Center advance tickets now on sale.

Friday May 13

General Meeting Election of Officers: candidates are:

Kay Atterberry, Leland Felitz, Dave Hughes, "Mel" McFarland

THE PIKE EXPEDITION

Did you know that Zeb Pike was exploring the West the same time as Lewis and Clark?

Come to the **May 13th** general meeting to learn more about Pike and "our mountain"!

Matt Mayberry from the Pioneer's Museum will tell us about Pike's expedition and include photos and maps of Pike's route.

Coffee and museum visitation will begin at 10 a.m.

The short general meeting (including elections) will start at 11 a.m. with the program immediately following.

Week end of May 28, 29, 30

Territory Days the Society will again have the cabin open and hopefully a booth on the Avenue