

WEST



WORD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 4

April 2006

DUNCAN

LAMONT

From the Colorado City Pulpit

by Mel McFarland

Over the years our building has been home to quite a strong influence in the town's history. One of the most influential was a preacher that made quite a reputation for himself a hundred years ago. When I raised a question recently about this man, at least one person knew a story that is probably one event this man is known for. Dave Hughes recognized that he was a strong anti-saloon leader that the fire department had to cool him off!

Reverend Duncan Lamont was one of the early ministers to hold forth in our building. I have been unable to locate if he was the third or fourth minister assigned to the church. He was born near Glasgow, Scotland and educated there, including Glasgow University and Rothesay Academy, before coming to this area. His first assignment in this area was up in Cripple Creek. He was in the district several years before relocating to Colorado Springs. He was sent to a church located between Colorado Springs and Colorado City, however, this was only brief. He then was moved to the church in Colorado City. He must have found Colorado City to his liking, as he not only settled in, but in 1903 he married Catherine, and they purchased a fine home not far away. The church at the time did not have a parsonage, and I have been unable to find it he was the

house's first owner, but he lived there for over thirty years. Over the years, the Lamont's hosted many events in their home, both religious and civic.

The church gave him quite a forum to express his opinions, both religious as well as civic. This was during Colorado City's peak years. The railroads, the mills, and even the red light district down along Cucharras Street were operating 24 hours a day. On several occasions he was called upon to present a sermon, both in Colorado Springs as well as up in the mining camps. In late 1904 he left this church as full time minister to fill a vacancy up in Victor. He maintained his home in Colorado City, and from stories in the newspapers, must have spent equal amounts of time in both places. This was a very difficult time up in the mining camps. There had been serious problems with labor unrest, and Rev. Lamont found himself on the firing line several times. Within a year he was back to living mainly in Colorado City, but was still occasionally called to the district to speak. He became quite popular in Cripple Creek for much the same reason as in Colorado City.

This brings up the story that most remember. It seems late one night there was a fire that started in one of the shacks in the red light district. It had spread to several other buildings and saloons. It caused quite a commotion along the avenue as the firemen fought to get it

Continued 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
©2006 OCCHS

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
	Leland Feitz	719-
	Tom Hendrix	719-633-7392
	Mel McFarland	719-

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
April 14, 2006 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
documents manuscript photographs
interviews biographies Book & Gift Shop
online e-mail us at: history@oldcolo.com

2006 Calendar of OCCHS Programs & Events
Spring & Summer

Friday, April 14 - 11 a.m. "The History of the Colorado Springs Fire Department"

Ray Turner, 29-year veteran of the Fire Department, will illustrate his talk with many historic photos, including the earliest days of the fire department which began in Old Colorado City. Everyone says that Ray is a great story-teller!

Museum opens at 10 a.m. for coffee.

Friday, May 12 - 11 a.m. "Unlocking the Mystery of Moritz Glauber"

Cal Otto, antique book collector and President of the Pikes Peak Library District Foundation, has taken obscure bits and pieces of information to create a slide lecture telling the story of a 19th century Cripple Creek clothing merchant named Moritz Glauber. While much has been written about Cripple Creek gold mines and miners, very little has been produced about commercial life in the mining town. The visual story will trace his career from 1893 to his departure from the Cripple Creek scene in 1902.

Museum opens at 10 a.m. for coffee.

Saturday, May 13 - 1 p.m. Fifth Annual Victorian Tea & Style Show

Tickets purchased in advance \$18.50 - available April 1.

Saturday - Monday, May 27, 28, 29 - Territorial Days in Old Colorado City

Saturday, June 10 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Garden Fair in Bancroft Park

Booths with Plants & Garden Items plus Arts & Crafts, Live Music, Bake Sale at History Center, Master Gardener demonstrations

Date TBD - BIG Yard Sale in OCCHS parking lot and/or patio

July - Pike Family Reunion

Tuesday Nights in July - 7 p.m. - History Lecture Series

July 11, 18, 25 - Programs to be Announced. Free. Donations appreciated.

(No program July 4.)

Saturday, August 12 - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Founders' Day Celebration & Fiddle Contest - Bancroft Park

Includes booths selling arts & crafts, displays at Garvin Cabin and History Center, and fiddle contest with the Black Rose Acoustical Society

August - Cemetery Crawl/Fundraiser

GARDEN FAIR FUNDRAISER COMING

JUNE 10

"CRAFTY PEOPLE" AND SUPPLIES NEEDED!

Homemade art and crafts sell well at this fundraising event.

Crafters and people who sew are needed to help make a variety of projects for our booth. Contact

Nancy Miceli at 227-0714.

Supplies needed are:

Garden pots & saucers (clay, pottery, plastic)

Fabric remnants (prints, solid color, taffeta, satin, net, lace)

Fabric paint

Brushes (1-inch or smaller)

Picture frames (smaller sizes)

Buttons (including unusual shapes)

Silk flowers (good condition)

Fabric Ribbons

Potpourri

Tissue paper (all colors)

And, of course, your extra bulbs, herbs, succulents, house plants, honeysuckle starts, etc. you wish to donate. Set them aside for us...more details later.

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

**NONPROFIT
ORG
PAID
COLO SPGS,
CO
PERMIT
#491**

race up and back down. Pike estimated the Peak to be half again as high as it actually is.

But when you're still miles and miles away there is this mountain sticking up in the far horizon that seems never to get much closer. Just imagine seeing that mountain day after day and seemingly get no closer. That is of course what happens when you are riding a horse ten or twenty miles a day. Today this phenomenon isn't quite as outstanding as in his day, because Zeb did not have an interstate highway or an automobile.

Because we are approaching the bicentennial of Zebulon Pikes trip to the west I have done some poking around on the internet and have read many articles about Pikes trip. I personally have come to the conclusion that he was both an explorer simply getting a lay of the land – his journey was more seemingly wandering around than what L&C did. They had a specific goal in mind and pursued it with vigor and purpose, where as it seems that Pike just seemed to go where the rivers took him. He also seemed to purposely journey into the area that he know was Spanish controlled and that's where the spy thing comes in. The travails of his travels can be found in a book published after he was set free from Chihuahua, Mexico and allowed to return to his home back east. It can be found on line at www.nebraskastudies.org and is fascinating even if the wording is a bit stilted.

Something else I found interesting about Zebulon Pike is all the different portraits that exist of him, some quite stylized others show a very dignified military man. None show him in a cloak with a dagger under his belt.

Merv Casey