



Old Colorado City Historical Society

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 9

November 2007

CONTROVERSY IN COLORADO

COLORADO'S INDIAN WARS REVISITED By Dave Hughes

A series of events that illuminate what Colorado City went through during the Indian Wars of 1864 and 1868 have converged on our Historical Society over the last year.

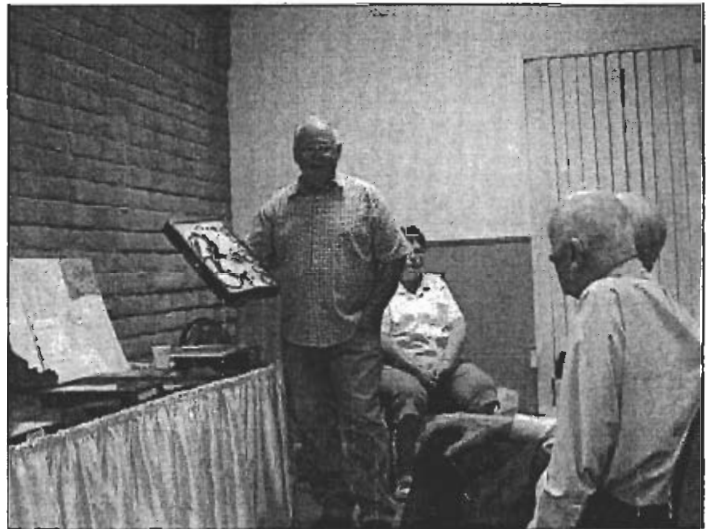
It all started when one of our members, Colorado native Curt Neeley informed us that 91 year old Irving Howbert the grandson of the original Colorado City pioneer Irving Howbert had generously taken his grandfather's 1925 book "A Lifetime of Memories in the Pike's Peak Region" out of copyright, so it could be 'more widely distributed.'

Your Society's Board of Directors jumped at the chance to reprint and sell that classic and rare (having been out of print for over 37 years) 300 page book, which ranges widely over all that happened in early Colorado City and earliest Colorado Springs, as well as what young Irving Howbert experienced helping defend Colorado City and El Paso County settlers



Battlefield Marker

against Indians who threatened them and settlers all across the front range.



The Bowens and their Battlefield Artifacts

The reprinting has been a great success – over 200 of the 300 printed so far have been sold for \$20.00 apiece. Many society members have begun to get a deeper understanding on just what life was like, including the dangers they faced, in earliest pioneer Colorado City. In Irving Howbert's 1914 book "Indians of the Pikes Peak Region" he was particularly observant of what happened when both hostile and friendly Indians interacted with the settlers – while sometimes fighting each other.

The Memories book ranges from why Irving Howbert and 17 other Colorado City men volunteered to serve in the 3d Colorado Cavalry and fought willingly at Sand Creek in 1864 against Cheyenne and Arapahoe while stoutly defending their actions and that of their commander Colonel Chivington, to the peaceful encampment of a large tribe of Ute Indians along Fountain Creek next to Colorado City in 1866.

Grandson Irving Howbert has been very pleased with the Society's reprinting. He wrote a new introduction to the book, and has since become quite involved with our Society as a member.

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
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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 - westsider@comcast.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	Beverley Disch	719-634-5023
Vice President	Tom Hendrix	719-633-7392
Secretary	Arlene Casey	719-634-2356
Treasurer	David Hughes	719-636-2040
	Phil McDonald	
	Mei McFarland	719-533-1311
	Joanne Karlson	719-475-2574
	Dick Eustice	
	Barb Barbaro	719-748-3483

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
 November 9, 2007
 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>

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e-mail us at: history@oldcolo.com

Curt Neeley also introduced the society to modern scholarship that challenges long held uncritical public assumptions – fueled by 140 years of repeated opinions, exaggerations, myths, and shifting political winds about what really went on in the Colorado Frontier, between settlers, the Indians, US government agents, the US Army - who was at fault, who suffered, and why.

Your Society also sponsored a Saturday program about 'Indian Depredations' in Colorado, by Dr. Jeff Broome, who has done both archeological research on Indian raid sites, and has been examining the 10,000 written claims in the National Archives made during the Indian Wars by settlers who lost horses, cattle, their homes and



Irving Howbert
Receiving Honorary Cavalry Plaque

belongings – and wives and children – to raids by Plains Indians who had signed treaties with the US!

Additionally Dr. Greg Michno, a wide ranging western scholar whose 'Encyclopedia of the Indian Wars – 1850-1890,' recent 'A Fate Worse Than Death' about what Indian tribes did to white women and children captives, and the voluminous 2003 "The Battle at Sand Creek – A Military Perspective" all have at last put balance into the perspective about the Indian Wars period Colorado City lived through. The history of Colorado Territory has too long been simplistically dismissed as the actions of bad white men who simply robbed the Indians of "their" lands during the Westward expansion.

As Irving Howbert wrote in his recent new introduction to his grandfather's book, "Modern residents of the Pikes Peak region often have a hard time relating to the fears those settlers had, in 1864 and 1868, of Indian raids that deprived them and their families of their lives and property."

From the time your Society learned from a Society lecture in 2002 and publications by Dr. Wilfred Martinez of Pueblo about how the Comanches drove the Utes and Apaches from their ancestral plains lands – and thus were

ATTENTION!
INDIAN
FIGHTERS

Recruiting poster for the 3rd Cavalry, U.S. Army, during the Indian Wars.

U. S. VOL CAVALRY!

Pay and Expenses for service as either U. S. Volunteer Cavalry.

Apply at the Recruiting Office, U.S. Army, at the following address: **Major General Hall of Benedict's Office, Denver, Col., Aug. 18, 1864.**

1864 Recruiting
Poster for 3d
Colorado Cavalry

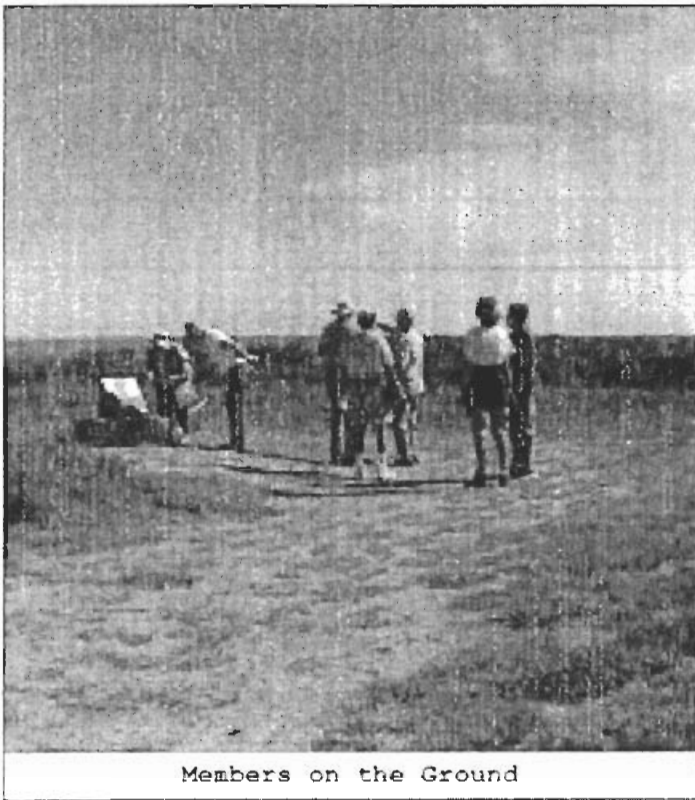
more than willing to team up with 200 Spanish soldiers under Governor Juan Batista de Anza in 1779 as he came down Ute Pass in a grand flanking maneuver, first defeating the Comanches camped right at the confluence of Fountain and Monument Creeks where 'America the Beautiful Park' is today, before crossing the Arkansas and finally killing ferocious Chief Cuerno Verde at Greenhorn Mountain south of Pueblo – the Indian behavior was revealed as at best a very mixed and violent picture.

Colorado City settlers became as much entangled with these Indian internecine Wars as they were in how to deal with both the friendly Utes and the hostile Arapahoe separately.

When we add up all these historical books including two written by Howbert, with the history that is marked by the 'Anway Fort' monument at 2828 West Pikes Peak Avenue where Colorado City women and children hid during dangerous times, and the documented killing of the young Robbin's boys and Charlie Everhart whose mutilated bodies were laid out in 1868 in the very 1859 cabin that still stands in Bancroft Park, to the unapologetic symbol displayed by Anthony Bott when he had engraved on his tombstone the still visible – in Fairview Cemetery - "Co G, 3d Colo Cav," it is clear that the settlers of El Paso County experienced Indian troubles we can barely comprehend today.

So, on September 20th and 21st a group of your Society members traveled to Sand Creek Battlefield to see for themselves the land and the evidence of that controversial battle.

The trip was oversubscribed even before we went. We rented a comfortable 15 passenger Van, and



Members on the Ground

took 12 members with us on the overnight trip to Lamar, Colorado on US50, which is 40 miles south of the Sand Creek site. Member Phil McDonald who had driven tour buses in the past, drove the 325 mile trip and back. Everyone shared the costs, which were quite low. For members the expedition cost less than \$125 each.

The key to the trip was, besides a visit to the very recently dedicated 'traditional' National Park Service monument and site, a special tour was given to us by Chuck and Sheri Bowen, on whose private cattle ranch adjacent to the 'traditional' site, over 3,000 artifacts from the 1864 battle along Sand Creek have been found.

It was also a very special trip for 91 year old Irving Howbert too. He grew up hearing the stories of his Colorado City grandfather, whom he knew, pioneering El Paso County, defending Colorado City settlers against Indians, and who became one of the most prominent men in all Colorado Springs long after all the Indian Wars were over. He was elected 5 times El Paso Clerk and Recorder, was a state Senator, and even reached the Presidency of the 1st National Bank of a prospering Colorado Springs after the Cripple Creek gold bonanza. He died in 1935. Sadly there is not even a statue to Irving Howbert in Colorado Springs, much less Old Colorado City. For he was a pioneer of pioneers. Perhaps we can do something about that.

The current Irving Howbert, a lawyer in Colorado Springs during his adult life, had never had the opportunity to visit the long lost Sand Creek battlefield especially accompanied by history buffs.

The trip was special for the Town of Lamar whose Chamber President greeted Mr. Howbert warmly

Additionally a costumed reenactor of the 7th US Army Cavalry Association (Sergeant Butch Kelly) had a surprise waiting. He presented elderly Irving Howbert an Honorary Membership in the US Cavalry Association. For it was, above all, the US Cavalry who held the hostile Plains Indians at bay during the 1860's.

The twelve of us had traveled the 162 miles to Lamar, and put up at the Cow Palace hotel. Then after dinner, Chuck Bowen and his wife Sheri who has helped him find, catalog, pinpoint by GPS, artifacts gave a well supported - by maps, extracts of 1864 descriptions, and indisputable artifacts themselves about his findings. We were able to inspect cased samples, from canon balls and lead rifle bullets to 'metal' arrow heads. (Indians took iron barrel bands and fabricated the arrows, which the metal detector readily located a century later).

There is also the separate and enduring controversy on exactly where the Sand Creek Battle took place. Whether the battle occurred on the land still owned by the Bowen's - which is agreed to by Michno's objective scholarship and maps - or where the Cheyenne Indians say it happened.

There is what is called the 'Traditional' Sand Creek site. Around which so very few artifacts have been found where one would expect to find - bullets, arrow-heads, canon balls. Only 5 artifacts have been found there on the traditional site, after 10 years of searching. Something was obviously askew. Could the Indians be wrong?

Well it was not until the early 1900s, when most all who had been alive then were dead, more from old age than battles, that their descendants, from oral stories alone, 'knew' where the battlefield was. Somewhere on long twisting dry Sand Creek, which is easy to find, to be sure. But where, exactly had their teepees been? Not all together in a big cluster that was sure. They were strung out for miles along that creek bed.

Nobody did much mapping of anything for over 70 years after the battle. Metal detectors didn't exist yet. Nothing but conflicting stories and mixed memories, scattered writings, hasty sketches referring to 'that ridge' this bluff, that bend, this trail, those trees.

Even though the Bowen Family have unearthed over 3,000 GPS marked, military artifacts over 15 years from the 1990s on their land adjacent to what the National Park Service accepted from the Indians, the US Government just ignored that objective reality. That is in part because today's Cheyenne Indians, from reservations in Oklahoma, say they "Don't accept white man's archeology."

Did it make any 'political' difference where the site is after a Casino gambling consortium put up the \$1.5 million to buy the "Dawson" ranch, which covers the 'traditional' area the Indians wanted covered, and who have now made it 'sacred'? Is that why the National Park Service virtually ignored Bowen's findings in the 42 page study he freely gave to the Park Service? No chance there could be plans for a gambling casino built on "Indian

land" could there be? It is miles closer and more accessible to Lamar, Colorado than the Bowen property. Or was the whole thing squeezed by the influence of Ben Night-horse Campbell when he was a US Senator?

The next morning we traveled nearly 40 miles to the new small, only partially developed National Park facility near the



Cheyenne Indian - Red Bird, 1927

'traditional' site. Which is staffed by two Park Rangers. We listened to one Ranger describe what led up to and after the November 29th and 30th, 1864 Battle. But he told us nothing about 'where' the battle took place, or the maneuvers of the US units. All we saw was trees in the distance and a small

marker put up by

local Boy Scouts in 1933.

Then Chuck and Sheri Bowen led us over 20 miles of rough, two track roads prairie roads across their ranch to the north of the 'traditional' site. Our 15 passenger van could barely negotiate the tracks. We went right down through and across almost-always-dry Sand Creek where much of the fighting took place, spread out over 5 miles of land. And where the Bowens had put up visible markers where many significant items of his more than 3,000 artifacts, were found and GPS marked.

We had an interesting time, even when we all were under the hot sun, time was short and the bouncing ride across the land too long, and we had to eat a box lunch on the prairie. For a while we could imagine what riding in a pioneer wagon might have felt like. At least the bouncing was the same.

Bowen makes more sense about where Sand Creek Battle took place than either the National Park Service or the Cheyenne Indians whose long after-the-fact oral-history evidence is suspect.

Because artifacts which have lain undisturbed on and under ground for 130 years on the dry plains - until the 1990s when Bowen's metal detectors found them - don't lie, I am inclined to believe the physical evidence of that battle.

While not all of our members, or even all of those who traveled to Sand Creek last month, excuse the Colo-

rado City settlers, or the Territorial or US Government for their actions against the Indians, it is a sign of intellectual honesty that there is even a debate here in our local Society about these events which happened over 140 years ago. Far healthier than the suppression of dissent, the repeating by media of claims and opinions long ago disproved or the dismissal of reinterpretation of those early days that has been practiced of late by local and state academics and their institutions which should know better.

In later programs and newsletters we can amplify on what we now know about the 18 men from Colorado City who joined G Company of the 3d Volunteer Cavalry before marching off toward Sand Creek through a typical Colorado November blizzard in 1864.

And we should also then, after the details of the battle are laid out, turn to the incredibly corrupted series of documented 'hearings' in Washington and Denver by men with well known conflicts of interest, and testimony by those who were not even there, statements which would have long since been thrown out of any modern court of law on appeal.

Maybe we can even reenact in our Center, from transcripts the Territorial hearings again 142 years later and vote as a jury whether Sand Creek was a justified battle or a massacre, and whether Colonel Chivington the hero of Glorieta Pass was as bad, or good, as alleged at Sand Creek. In any case it is all about Colorado City's earliest days.

Treasurers Report

Very little to report this - September- month. No fund raising events. Just income from book store sales (\$698) and membership renewals, with a few new ones. (\$390).

With normal monthly expenses for Security Alarms (\$42), Telephone (\$51), Insurance (\$122), Utilities (\$108), Postage (\$50) and materials for archive storage and display cases (\$80), contract cleaning (\$45), as usual in slow months our costs exceed our income.

And as anticipated our T-Bill earned interest rate dropped to 3.4% and our CD interest dropped to 5.25%.

The Board of Directors at its October meeting approved a plan and expenditures painting our Center building and repair broken concrete steps in the spring of 2008. \$5000 will come from the El Pomar grant, \$4,000 from our projected checking account end year surplus, and the balance - up to \$6,000 from our accumulated earned interest from our endowment funds that is currently in our T-Bill account. Or up to \$15,000.

Dave Hughes

Old Colorado City Historical Society

One South Twenty-Fourth Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319



In 2009, Colorado City will have existed for 150 years. During the "Pikes Peak or Bust" gold rush, many risked their lives and staked their fortunes searching for riches and a better life. Also, in 2009 it will have been 29 years since a small group of history buffs organized the Old Colorado City Historical Society.

The Westside of Colorado Springs has a rich story to tell and the Old Colorado City Historical Society exists to ensure that this history is preserved for current and future generations to enjoy. In the early 1990s, the Society purchased the historic Colorado City First Baptist Church building which opened in 1997 as the home of the History Center Museum; Archives, Research Library, Computer Center, and Bookstore and Gift Shop. This facility is free to the public, and contains collections which tell the history of Colorado City. The operation of the History Center is done by volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to ensure the history "stays alive."

The continued success of OCCHS depends totally on the support of volunteers, members, and visitors. With the all volunteer group of members and diligent fundraising, our financial picture has been just to break even. The building and land are debt free; however the building needs exterior painting. There are other maintenance projects that are needed in order to protect and preserve this historic building, which is on the Colorado Register of Historic Buildings. Gifts and grants are always being sought, but they have not provided all our financial needs.

On behalf of the OCCHS Board of Directors, I am asking for your financial support to help us keep the history of the Westside alive and well. As you review your will or plan for your 2007/2008 taxes, please consider designating the Old Colorado City Historical Society in your bequest or donation. Direct donations to the Society can go to the OCCHS Endowment Fund or to the budgeted items listed below.

Your donation of any amount will be greatly appreciated and well used. This request is being sent to you in the monthly issue of *West Word*, the OCCHS newsletter. After your review and consideration of our request, please separate the lower portion of this letter and return it to me:

Beverley Disch, President
Old Colorado City Historical Society
1 South 24th Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

With Sincere Appreciation,

Beverley B. Disch

Beverley Disch, President

(please separate the form here and return the portion below)

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

My Donation \$ _____ Payable by: _____ Check enclosed _____ Credit Card _____ Visa _____ Master Card

Credit Card # _____ exp date _____

Designated use of my donation _____ endowment _____ maintenance _____ General Fund _____ Where ever needed

_____ I would like to talk with an OCCHS Board member about establishing a trust/endowment gift in my name.

Signature of donor _____ Date _____

FOR YOUR CALENDAR ~ Invite your friends!

- **"Saturday at the Museum", Saturday, November 3 from 11 a.m. til 3 p.m.**

OCCHS members in costume showcase the museum, its collections, and history of Old Colorado City and the Westside with historical vignettes and exhibits. Stop in for 30 minutes and take this opportunity to introduce your family and friends to the History Center. We are hoping to meet many Westsiders who have never visited.

- **"Meet a Hard Rock Miner", Friday, November 9 at 11 a.m.**

Matt Mathiesen, a popular tour guide at the Western Museum of Mining & Industry, will share some of his mining and mineral exploration experiences, including Libya and New Guinea. His firsthand knowledge will help explain mining history of the past and its progression to present methods. If you have questions about mining in the Rockies as well as various countries, he's the man to ask!

- **Annual Bed & Breakfast Holiday Tour, Sunday, December 2nd from 2 'til 6 p.m.** ..proceeds

benefit OCCHS. Tickets available November 1 at OCC Bookstore. Advance tickets \$10, at the door \$15.

- **"On the Mountain with AdAmAn", Saturday, December 8th ...a special event**

Since the 1920's, this unique group has been hiking to the top of Pikes Peak to set off a New Year's Eve display of fireworks. Yet many of their photos and artifacts have not been seen by the public. **AddAmAn members will present an illustrated program at 2 p.m.**, but come early and stay later to enjoy the displays and visit with AddAmAn members. The exhibit will continue until mid-January. A limited supply of a NEW commemorative poster will be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the History Center. Public is welcome.

HISTORY QUOTES

"History, Agnes always told her students on the first day of school, was not a matter of dates and battles, but rather one of stories. She would tell them stories, she announced, and they would listen. But as Agnes put her pen and notebook away, she wondered this: Is imagination dependent upon experience, or is experience influenced by the imagination?"

"A Wedding in December" by Anita Shreve

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FACT: There are frequently at least five people working on various projects

Tuesday afternoons at the History Center.

But, there is so much more that could be done...and is needed. Just a few hours of your time...or as many hours per week on a regular basis when your schedule allows, would be a great help. Training will be provided in each of these areas as needed.

- To research information, genealogy requests or specific topics
- To research artifact information, e.g. art, textiles, tools
- To organize archival records and photos
- To help with museum displays
- To work in the Bookstore
- To help plan and organize monthly programs and/or special events
- To supervise an intern on a research project
- To write media releases and submit articles to the *Gazette's* THE HUB
- To lead tours in the Museum and/or neighborhood
- To interview and tape oral history relating to Old Colorado City

Please contact Bev Disch (634-5023) soon, or call the History Center (636-1225).

Thank you!

Horse Alleys

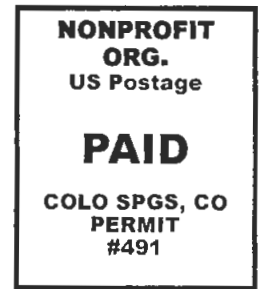
Ever wonder why there are shops in Old Colorado City that are only 5 feet wide and over 50 feet long?

In the 1880s when Colorado City boasted boardwalks, the horses tied to them would mess them up. So the women of the town prevailed on the men to pass a law that said there had to be openings between the buildings so the horses could be led to the rear.

Those openings are, today, the famous Horse Alleys of Colorado City. Not just openings, filled in by shops now that the horses are gone. They were and are DEEDED Horse Alleys which can be bought and sold like any other property.

In 1980 the city bought one from Gene Brent's Gun Store. It is the opening between two buildings in the 2500 block, a walkway to the parking lots in the rear.

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



President's Message

We put out ten newsletters per year. During the summer we double up and do a May-June letter and then July-August. We send the newsletter to all our members and also send complimentary copies to schools, libraries, and other museums. Merv Casey is our West Word editor. He compiles each issue which starts with the lead article of a historical bent. Included as well are the coming events, the treasures report, the presidents' report and often historical tidbits or advertising for a brick in our patio, or a piece of log from historic Dr Gavin's Cabin.

Merv usually runs the issue on our copier on the last Thursdays of the month. Then a committee of Kay Atterberry, Muriel Dunkley, and Eloise Wynn fold and tape each newsletter. I put the labels on each one, put them in four trays by zip codes, and take them to the bulk mail office of the postal service at Fountain and Academy Avenue. Many

thanks to these ladies who help get the newsletter out every month and a special thanks to Merv for being such a good editor.

Bev Disch
President

Update

OCCA just had out 3rd annual "Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off" on October 6th with our largest pumpkin weighing in at 1008 pounds. It was mentioned in WestWord the largest pumpkin ever grown at 1,337 pounds but that record was set in 2002 in New Hampshire. The record was broken 2003 with 1,385, again in 2004 at 1,446, again in 2005 at 1,469, again in 2006 at 1,502, and yet again in 2007 1,689 by a grower in Massachusetts

Colorado's state record is 1,075 grown by Joe Scherber in Denver. We also set a state record for Squash this year in Old Colorado City with 956 pounds, grown by Marc Sawtelle here in Colorado Springs.

Nancy Stovall
Old Colorado City Associates