



## ***Old Colorado City Historical Society***

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 8

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# THE RIDGES WEST OF TOWN

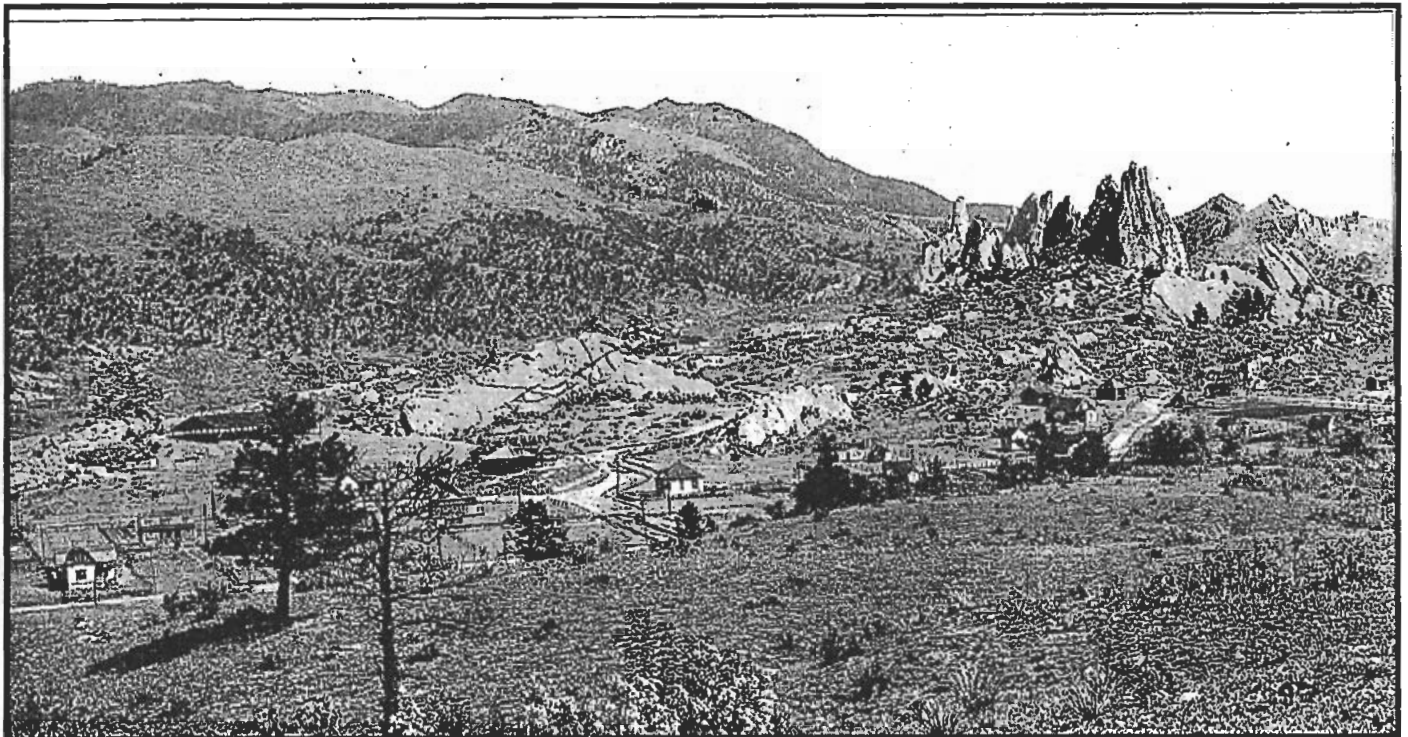
## COLORADO CITY'S EARLY QUARRIES

By Mel McFarland

I have a bit of a mystery for you this time. West of Old Colorado City is a relatively unknown industrial area. Peachblow is a name given to red sandstone, best known from quarries with that name near Glenwood Springs, but a lot of it actually came from Colorado City. The Colorado City quarries cut stone from an unknown number of areas in what is now a mixed residential and business

area of town. We know of the spectacular Garden of the Gods, but there are other stones, but from there south to the other side of US 24.

This area from just east of the Manitou city limit to about 32<sup>nd</sup> Street was a prosperous industrial area once buildings were turning from logs to stone or brick in the 1860's. The Garden of the Gods is part of a formation that runs from way up in Wyoming to New Mexico, and is usually hidden. West of Colorado City it used to run right through Arensdale. In this area there were at least two quarries. These were



Looking North toward the Garden of the Gods in 1908, at present Ridge Road shows a few houses, but no indications of the quarries of thirty years before.

*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  
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LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTIFACTS AND STORIES CAN BE DELIVERED  
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Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319  
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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	
	Mel 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**  
**October 12, 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*  
(June – September)

TUES – SAT 11 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Closed Sunday & Monday

Visit our web site for even more history!

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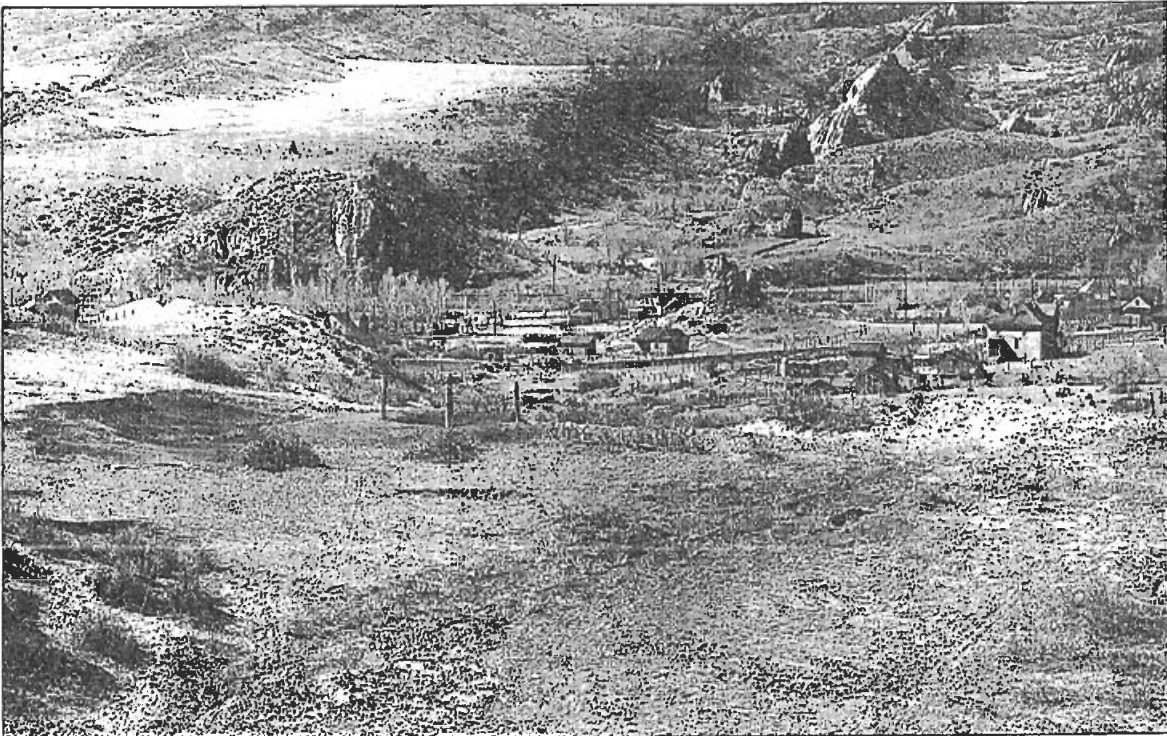
almost on present day Colorado Avenue in the 1860's up to about 1890. The red rocks were used all around as foundation and building stone. A few of these rocks still can be found, but many are gone because of the quarry operations.

In 1880, when the D&RG built their track to Manitou, just north of Fountain Creek, there was a busy Quarry track built near where the Safeway sits. It served these old quarries that had been there since the start of Colorado City. Every week carloads of red and white stone went out on train cars. Many of the houses in our area have foundations built using this stone. There are few pictures to show the area before the quarries were built. I have found a few from 1908, but the quarries were generally gone by then. Today there are still indications of some of the rocks, but mainly the quarries have vanished. The removal of the rocks made building a straighter Colorado Avenue, as well as a better line for the D&RG and later the street car line. It also provided better building sites along Colorado Avenue, but looking around, as I drive it almost every day, I wonder how it would have looked if the rocks were still there. The houses, streets and buildings in the area of the Red Rocks Shopping center hide the remains of the early formations that

were cut away. North of Pikes Peak Avenue there are several prominent ridges.

Significant buildings in the area from Manitou to Colorado Springs used the red, gray and white stones, but the bulk was most likely used in Colorado City. The Surplus City building uses some of this stone, but there are probably many more if we would investigate. Once the stone started running out the operations shifted further south up into the Red Rocks area. Fortunately the Garden of the Gods had already been purchased by the Perkins Family for preservation. The quarries south of the Colorado Midland, now where US24 is located started in the 1880's and lasted into the 1920's. This area is well documented.

There is another story that would make an interesting story about our local brick works, and that is not so much of a mystery. There are a few traces, but at least we have maps that show the locations of the buildings and their railroad tracks and a few pictures. Those were quite busy up into the Twentieth Century.



Looking South from the Garden of the Gods across what is now Colorado Avenue from just east of what is now Ridge road. Work at the Snyder Quarry is barely visible, but there are no signs of the early work

## Treasurers Report

We have some good news, mixed news and a little bad news.

First the bad news. On the 18th of September The 'Fed' led by Ben Bernanke lowered the Federal interest rate a half a percent, to 4.75% in its key rate. Of course it was in reaction to the severe economic problems in the nation. The stock market went up, but our Society's Endowment interest income just went down.

The earned interest from the \$104,182 right now in our variable rate Endowment CD and T-Bill accounts will only fall off a few hundred dollars by the end of the 2007 from our projected \$5,436 earnings. But there are predictions that the rates will be lowered again. So our little cash cow that has generated almost one quarter of our annual budget income the last two years will decrease. I would not be surprised if we only earn \$3,000 in 2008. No crises, just a smaller free Society lunch.

Now for the better news.

First of all we had a very good series of summer fund raising events. We netted \$908 during Territory Days, and our June Craft Fair gained \$776. Then our Saturday Founder's Day added to Sunday's Cemetery Crawl netted us \$1,593. Added publicity from the Gazette Telegraph's 'Hub' Old Colorado City newspaper supplement, with a cover picture of 'Laura Belle' drew more Westsiders to the Crawl event than ever in the past. All together these events brought in \$3,278.72 over our costs this year.

Partly from this event income, and partly from our continuing successful sales of our reprint of the Irving Howbert classic 1935 'Memories' and other books, I project that we will end the year with approximately \$3,500 profit over our total annual 2007 costs for insurance, utilities, telephone, security, supplies, accounting, newsletter mailings and maintenance.

Now our mixed news comes from the fact we will have to spend most of that 2007 surplus toward the long deferred painting of our building.

But now the somewhat good news. Your Board instructed your Treasurer in July to apply for a grant for part of the costs. We were just awarded \$5,000 by El Pomar, disbursed in December. That is over one third of the cost of painting the entire building.

So the year will end with the start of our Center being repainted, our endowment funds intact, budget balanced, and our costs under control. Pretty good news overall.

Dave Hughes  
Treasurer

## SHEEP HERDING AND ENGLISHMEN

We have made a neat historical addition to our Society Website. It is a digital reproduction of each of the fragile original 18 pages of a January 1880 Harpers Magazine article about Shepherding in El Paso County. It has 14 wonderful 'sketch art' illustrations that highlight the effort of Englishmen from "Little London" of Colorado Springs to learn sheep 'ranching' from rough Colorado City type frontiersmen. Go to <http://history.oldcolo.com> and select the home page item."

Dave Hughes

## Sand Creek Battle Visit

Twelve members of our Old Colorado Historical Society made a 2 day 15 passenger van tour to the remote Sand Creek Battlefield, the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of September.

Ninety-one year old Irving Howbert, the grandson of the original Irving Howbert who defeated the Cheyenne Indians at Sand Creek was a special guest. He was not only recognized by the city of Lamar but also given an Honorary Membership in the US Army Cavalry Association in recognition of the fact his grandfather, as well as 17 other Colorado City men fought at Sand Creek in the 3d US Cavalry Regiment.

We were privately guided over the portion of the adjoining Bowen Ranch where 4,000 artifacts of that November 1864 battle have recently been found, which place the actual battle ground over 3 miles away from the "Traditional" and Indian recognized National Park Service Battlefield site, where as few as 5 artifacts have ever been found.

The entire two day and overnight tour cost members less than \$125 each person: including the guided tour by Chuck Bowen, lecture, artifact display inspection, van travel, hotel room, and meals. The Society hope to offer similar Sand Creek tours again. As well as ones to the Glorieta Pass battlefield in New Mexico.

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR ~

### Invite your friends!

- "A Ghost Town Tour", Friday,
- October 12 at 11 a.m.

Explore a ghost town and former mining camp with **Phil McDonald**, a PILLAR instructor and retired history teacher.

His illustrated presentation will retrace events and scenes from one of Colorado's fading treasures.

- "Meet a 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 experiences and mineral exploration in many places of the world. If you have questions about mining, he's the man to ask!



A soldier of the 10th Mountain Division presents a book to the Historical Society and Bev Disch detailing the Division's history

## 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!

If you have a little time and a good Internet Connection, you can go to our Society web site <http://history.oldcolo.com> and click on the highlighted 'Harper's Magazine' item.

It took me a over a week and lots of digital scanning, sizing, and html fiddling with 18 old, fragile, original, illustrated pages from an 1880 Harpers Monthly about what I term 'Shepherds and Englishmen in El Paso County. I bought it at auction, and the original will become the property of the Society after I am done with it.

It is a rare look at local sheep 'ranching' - I had never known about or heard before. Cattle, maybe. But sheep as business in El Paso County? Especially written from the viewpoint of effete Easterner writers and Englishmen who showed up just 8 years after 'Little London' was founded. And plopped down in the El Paso Club. Some of them were 'Remittance Men' English gentlemen who had come to the American West, either willingly or under parental pressure, "to learn ranching" as penance for their sins.

The side comments about Colorado City and 'drinking' in 'dry' Colorado Springs are priceless

It is 18 pages with 14 wonderful pen-ink sketches. (especially see Page 11, with its sketch 'Counting Sheep' with a monocled top hatted Englishman standing on a fence. A substantive addition to our History.

Dave Hughes- [dave@oldcolo.com](mailto:dave@oldcolo.com)

## Halloween— a history

Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in).

The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom, and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1. This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and direction during the long, dark winter.

To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities.

During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes. When the celebration was over, they relit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening, from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

By A.D. 43, Romans had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. In the course of the four hundred years that they ruled the Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.

The first was Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was a day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple and the incorporation of this celebration into Samhain probably explains the tradition of "bobbing" for apples that is practiced today on Halloween.

By the 800s, the influence of Christianity had spread into Celtic lands. In the seventh century, Pope Boniface IV designated November 1 All Saints' Day, a time to honor saints and martyrs. It is widely believed today that the pope was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, but church-sanctioned holiday. The celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas (from Middle English Alhallowmesse meaning All Saints' Day) and the night before it, the night of Samhain, began to be called All-hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween. Even later, in A.D. 1000, the church would make November 2 All Souls' day to honor the dead. It was celebrated similarly to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades, and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels, and devils. Together, the three celebrations, the eve of All Saints', All Saints', and All Souls', were called Hallowmas.

## Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Pumpkins But Were Afraid To Ask...

- Pumpkins are fruits. A pumpkin is a type of squash and is a member of the gourd family (Cucurbitaceae), which also includes squash, cucumbers, gherkins, and melons.
- The largest pumpkin pie ever baked was in 2003 and weighed 418 pounds.
- Pumpkins have been grown in North America for five thousand years. They are indigenous to the western hemisphere.
- In 1584, after French explorer Jacques Cartier explored the St. Lawrence region of North America, he reported finding "gros melons." The name was translated into English as "pompions," which has since evolved into the modern "pumpkin."
- Pumpkins are low in calories, fat, and sodium and high in fiber. They are good sources of Vitamin A, Vitamin B, potassium, protein, and iron.
- The largest pumpkin ever grown was 1,337 pounds. It was grown by Charles Houghton of New Boston, New Hampshire.
- Pumpkin seeds should be planted between the last week of May and the middle of June. They take between 90 and 120 days to grow and are picked in October when they are bright orange in color. Their seeds can be saved to grow new pumpkins the next year.

## History Of The Jack-O'Lantern

Pumpkin carving is a popular part of modern America's Halloween celebration. Come October, pumpkins can be found everywhere in the country from doorsteps to dinner tables. Despite the widespread carving that goes on in this country every autumn, few Americans really know why or when the jack o'lantern tradition began. Or, for that matter, whether the pumpkin is a fruit or a vegetable. Read on to find out!

People have been making jack o'lanterns at Halloween for centuries. The practice originated from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack." According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him. True to his name, Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so he convinced the Devil to turn himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. Once the Devil did so, Jack decided to keep the money and put it into his pocket next to a silver cross, which prevented the Devil from changing back into his original form. Jack eventually freed the Devil, under the condition that he would not bother Jack for one year and that, should Jack die, he would not claim his soul. The next year, Jack again tricked the Devil into climbing into a tree to pick a piece of fruit. While he was up in the tree, Jack carved a sign of the cross into the tree's bark so that the Devil could not come down until the Devil promised Jack not to bother him for ten more years.

Soon after, Jack died. As the legend goes, God would not allow such an unsavory figure into heaven. The Devil, upset by the trick Jack had played on him and keeping his word not to claim his soul, would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved-out turnip and has been roaming the Earth with it ever since. **The Irish began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack O'Lantern."**

In Ireland and Scotland, people began to make their own versions of Jack's lanterns by carving scary faces into turnips or potatoes and placing them into windows or near doors to frighten away Stingy Jack and other wandering evil spirits. In **England, large beets are used.** Immigrants from these countries brought the jack o'lantern tradition with them when they came to the United States. They soon found that pumpkins, a fruit native to America, make perfect jack o'lanterns.

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## President's Report

We had a lively beginning with our first general meeting on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> with ninety people attending the program, "The Legacy of the Tenth Mountain Division: The Soldiers on Skis". Slides were shown of Camp Hale being built and outfitted in six months. Their mountain gear and skis were shown and the areas where they learned to ski. Slides of the mountain and Po Valley in Italy where they routed the German army were shown as well.

One of the veterans presented our library with "Commemorative Book of the 28<sup>th</sup> National Reunion World War II 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division". Eight of those veterans who were here for the program were asked to sign their names on a front page of the book. Joanne Karlson provided a tasty lunch for these men. Her helpers were Marge Knorr, Sharon Swint, and Doris Hendrix. It was one of our most satisfying events.

We participated again in the Associates Scarecrow contest with a cute little scarecrow that Larry Van Wert made for us. He has been making our scarecrows for many years.

Nancy Stovall, the director of the Associates asked us again to do historical things for the Taste of Historic Old Colorado City on Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> in the afternoon. Kay Atteberry and Barbara Barbaro in darling Victorian costumes walked on the Avenue handing out our brochures. Dave Hughes in his Civil War outfit and Kathy McBride dressed as Katherine McNeal Lamont were to do historic vignettes on the front porch of Dr. Gavin's Cabin, but instead walked on the Avenue. It was a lovely fall day and the Associates are giving half of the proceeds to our Society and half to the Westside Library.

We have had good news. We have been notified that we have received a grant of \$5,000 from El Pomar to paint the outside of our building, repair the ramp and kitchen door cement entrance, and fix various boards and things. This is very welcome news for our Society.

Bev Disch  
President