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November, 2008

The Election of 1908

by Paul Shepard

The year 1908 was transformational and momentous. Among the unusual events were: the Model T first rolled off the assembly line, Teddy Roosevelt sent the Great White Fleet around the world to showcase American military might, and the Chicago Cubs won the world series. Also, one hundred years ago El Paso County held an election in which many legislative districts were shared with Teller County. Teller was created in 1899 but prior to that is was part of El Paso County. The Election of 1908 in El Paso County was also unusual because the Republican Party ran two slates of candidates making it possible for local Democrats to win some races. A split occurred between the regular Republicans and the progressives.

In this political climate a power struggle took place in El Paso County between members of the official Republican Party and a splinter wing of the party. The official party leader was Clarence Hamlin, the District Attorney, who had been instrumental in defeating the strikers in the 1904 strike. The leader of the progressives was Congressman Frank Brooks. These two fought one another for the right to be the U.S. Senate candidate for the GOP if Republicans won control of the state legislature. Before 1913 U.S. Senators were elected by state legislatures. Hamlin easily won and was particularly strong in Colorado City according to the Gazette; probably because Hamlin had been Secretary of the Mine Owners Association during the

1903-04 strike; and, he was associated with most mining interests of Colorado. At that time Colorado City's economy was based on milling and transporting ore.

It was a bitter struggle and instead of getting behind Hamlin the Brooks forces created a third party. They called it the Good Government Party (GG) for local races and the Citizens Legislative Party for the state house and senate contests. The Colorado Springs Gazette newspaper supported the GG ticket while the Evening Telegraph supported the regular GOP. If you read the Gazette you would believe that Hamlin was the leader of thugs and crooks. But, if you read the Evening Telegraph you might think the GG party was made up sanctimonious, pious individuals. So much so that when mentioning the splinter party they called it the GooGoo party. Finding objective stories in either paper was not easy since the papers were more like campaign flyers for their candidates than conveyors of news.

Hamlin had the support of such notables as Spencer Penrose and Charles McNeill while Major Henry McCallister and other close associates of General William Palmer backed Brooks. Also, Clarence Dodge, publisher of the Colorado Springs Gazette, backed the candidates of the splinter party. In 1923 Hamlin was the publisher of the Evening Telegraph and he purchased the Gazette

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Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

WEST WORD

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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 Don Ellis - spiderwort@pcisys.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:

Student	\$15	Lifetime	\$150
Individual	\$20	Business	\$50
Family	\$25	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	Joanne Karlson	475-2574
Vice President	Phil McDonald	532-0881
Secretary	Janice deChadenades	598-7183
Treasurer	David Hughes	636-2040
	Art Crawford	578-1158
	Beverley Disch	634-5023
	Tom Hendrix	633-7392
	Mel McFarland	533-1311
	Sharon Swint	630-8384

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.

WELCOME TO OCCHS! ~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Kay Atteberry
Bill Arbogast
Dr. Ben Benoit
Norman Clark
Carolyn & James
Engquist
Barbara Ewell
Pat Fejedelem
Peggy Hartmann
Bonnie Kittel
Kathy McBride
Jeanne Schocklin
Paul Shepard

In Memory

*Albert Heim
Harriet Seibel*

WANT EMAIL NOTIFICATION?

With email notification, you could .. find out what's going on at the History Center between issues of *West Word*? learn more local history, have more frequent contact with the History Center, and reduce volunteer time spent phoning the telephone tree.

If interested, please email the following information to:

history@oldcolo.com

Your Name

Phone #

Email address Attn: (if needed)

Volunteer Spotlight – meet Jo Cervone

by Barbara Barbaro

Have you ever heard the phrase, “If you want something done, just ask a busy person”? Well, that person is Jo.

Born in Chicago and raised in northwest Indiana, Jo moved to Colorado Springs in the early 1980s. While working at Penrose Main Hospital in the Quality Assurance department she met Dan, her husband-to-be, who was stationed at the Air Force Academy. They married in 1985 and lived the life of a military couple for several years. Fulfilling their dream to return to Colorado when they retired, they came back to stay in 1998.

Jo began her “career” as a volunteer at the History Center in 1999 when she volunteered to be one of the hosts at its annual Bed & Breakfast Tour. From then on she was hooked. Although she describes herself as a “gofer”, over the years Jo has become one of the History Center’s key event planners. She’s either headed up or worked on every major, and not-so-major event held, including the Victorian Tea, Founder Day’s, the Arts & Crafts Fair in Bancroft Park, the Cemetery Crawl, and Victorian hat-making classes. She also conducts research for persons who have requested information on their family history going back to the early days of Old Colorado City.

Her favorite part among all of these activities is research. “I love all of that digging”, she says with a smile. And there’s no doubt about that. As an example, she’s on a continuous quest to come up with new characters for the Cemetery Crawl. On any given day she can be found in the Center’s research library pouring over books, looking through past West Word articles, and viewing documents from the Archives.

Jo is also our sound system expert. She and Dan, a musician, were instrumental in upgrading the Center’s outdated sound system a while back. Working with the late La Rue Ebersol, they finally found and purchased one suitable for the Center’s needs. There’s a lot of pride in her voice when she talks about that new system and explains how a good

sound system is essential to obtaining high quality, sought-after guest speakers.

When asked what would she be doing if she could go back in time to Old Colorado City days, Jo thought for a while, and then answered, “I’d be hanging out with the ‘Bloomer Girl’, Julia Holmes, the first documented woman to climb Pikes Peak” Back in 1858 Julia conducted this feat with her husband, and was heralded as the first woman to climb a “fourteener”, a mountain over 14,000 feet in elevation, in Colorado. Although Jo hasn’t yet climbed Pikes Peak, she has climbed four other fourteeners, and has hiked all over Colorado, from Maroon Bells to Breckenridge, and everywhere locally.

Well, now that you know a little more about Jo, the next time you sign up to attend one of the History Center’s events, you can just about bet that this behind-the-scene lady has had a major role in planning it and making it a success. And I’ll just bet that she’s done a ton of research on Julia Holmes, too.



1908 election *(continued from page 1)*

making him the owner of both local daily newspapers.

Many Democrats joined the Good Government candidates. Others ran as Democrats. This gave voters a choice of up to four candidates. At that time the voters had a choice of ballots that were either Republican or Democratic. People often voted a straight ticket. The Gazette suggested that voters cast a "scratch ballot" which meant you could vote the top of the ticket and scratch out candidates that the newspaper had identified as "Hamlin stooges". Then, mark an X in front of the GG candidates of your choice. However, they encouraged citizens to vote for the GOP presidential candidate and the state wide executive officials.

William Howard Taft (R) and William Jennings Bryan (D) headed the top of the ticket. The governor's race included John Shafroth (D) and Jessie McDonald (R). Taft was the handpicked successor by the popular President Roosevelt and it was assumed he would be as progressive as Teddy. Bryan, considered by many to be one of the greatest orators of his day, had twice before been the Presidential candidate of the Democrats, winning Colorado both times. In 1908 Bryan won Colorado but Taft won El Paso County.

Both Shafroth and MacDonald had unique political backgrounds. MacDonald was selected by the legislature in a showdown between the Democrats and the Republicans in 1904. The Democratic candidate for governor, Alva Adams, was declared the winner of the election and sworn in as governor but the legislature, and the courts declared that about 10,000 votes in Denver were cast illegally and were discounted. The Republican candidate, James Peabody, was declared the winner, but only after he agreed to step down after being sworn in. Challenges were made that the Republicans had intimidated voters in mining areas so those votes should not be counted. MacDonald was the new lieutenant governor and in order to resolve the dispute

he was also sworn in as governor. Thus, Colorado had three governors in one day.

Shafroth had been a Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives but switched parties over the issue of silver, as did other Republicans such as Henry Teller. After winning the election he was informed that the Denver Democratic machine stuffed the ballot boxes. In response he asked the House of Representatives to seat his opponent. He felt he could not honestly accept the position. People throughout the country called him Honest John Shafroth. How could you lose with a name like that? He didn't. He led the entire statewide Democratic ticket to victory. However, he lost El Paso County.

In local races the Good Government candidates edged the Republican candidates winning the El Paso County clerk and recorder, treasurer, superintendent of schools, coroner, surveyor and district attorney races. The regular Republicans won the sheriff, assessor, and county commissioner races. Even though the Republicans did well in the state legislative races they lost most of them when the Teller County votes were tabulated. Two of the more interesting winners were the Republican sheriff candidate George Birdsall and the Democratic superintendent of schools candidate Miss Inez Johnson (Mrs. Inez J. Lewis)

Johnson was interesting not only because she was a Democrat in a Republican County but she had also won office twelve years before most women in the United States could vote. She held this office for fourteen continuous years making her the veteran office holder in the county when she stepped down. She initiated such accomplishments as creating parent and teacher councils, consolidating rural school districts, providing hot lunch programs, and many other educational improvements. The Gazette Telegraph said she was responsible for making El Paso County a model for school systems. When the Monument area consolidated its schools a school was named after her. Her successful career ended when she stepped down to run for the state

superintendent of instruction. She finally lost an election.

George Birdsall won even though he faced some of the fiercest attacks of all the candidates. He had been the chief of police of Colorado City from 1889-1907. In his job the Colorado Springs Gazette said he was a puppet for Hamlin and "compromises with the forces of evil" and who was "a protector of gamblers, thugs, and prostitutes". Conversely, The Evening Telegraph described him as an "example of the best type of the young man in politics" who has never "touched a drop of liquor". This last quote was in response to the twenty-five members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union who signed a petition opposing Birdsall. Dave Hughes defends Birdsall calling him a tough and fair policeman who always enforced the law. Also, during the strike in Colorado City in 1903-1904 the records show that the chief of police of Colorado City told the governor of Colorado that state troops were not needed. This is the opposite of what the mine and mill owners who were close friends of Hamlin were saying. No matter who was right Birdsall won and began a long and successful career in politics. After four terms as sheriff he served sixteen years on the Colorado Springs city council including eight years as mayor. Another Colorado City candidate was George Musser (D) who won the most votes of any candidate in the state for Justice of the state Supreme Court.

Democrats won all of the state executive offices, seventy-five of one hundred legislative seats, all U.S. congressional races and the U.S. senate race. They ran on a platform calling for the direct election of senators, direct primaries, secret ballots, eight-hour working day, child labor laws, a progressive income tax, various government regulations and many other reforms. Progressives in both parties brought about much change throughout the country for the next ten years; but World War I brought an end to the progressive era. However, in 1908 the coalition of progressive Republicans and Democrats in places like El Paso County did bring change.

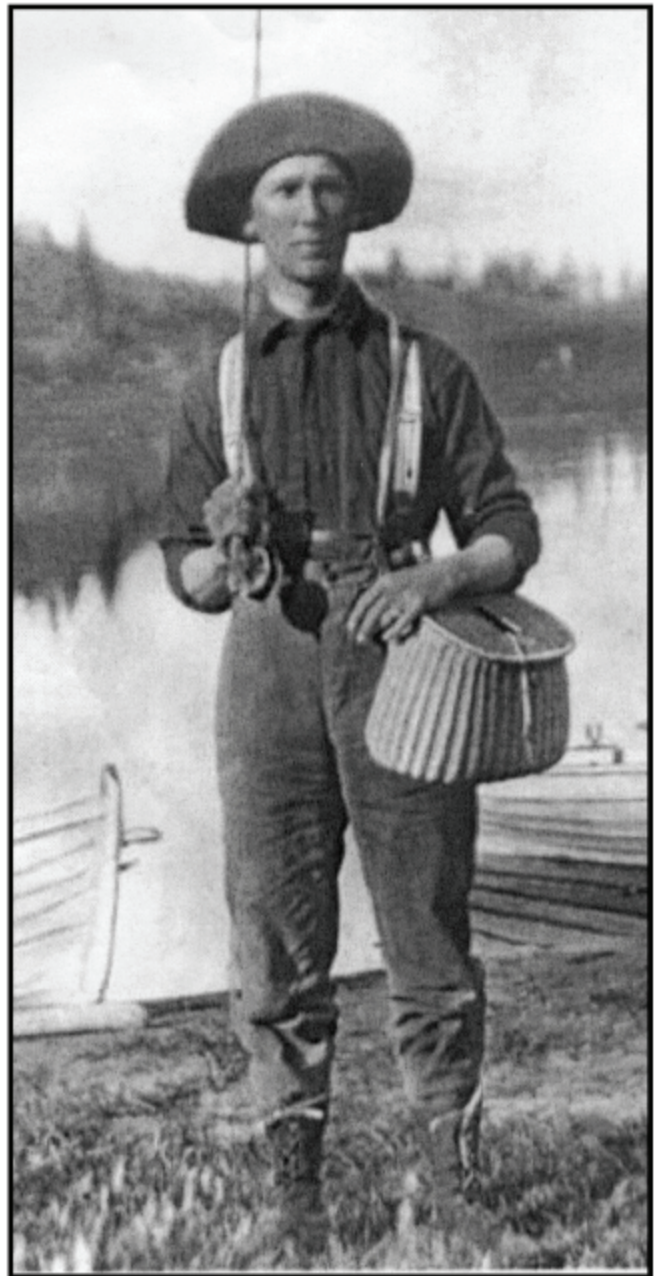


Photo: Pikes Peak Library District Photo Archives

George Birdsall

Public library books related to this topic used to find information for this topic are:

America, 1908, Jim Rasenberger

Colorado's War on Militant Unionism, George G. Suggs, Jr.

Honest John Saffroth, Colorado Reformer, Stephen Leonard

Tom Patteron: Colorado Crusader for Change, Sybil Downing.

Fourteenth Annual
Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour

Sunday, December 7
 2-6 PM



www.historytour.info

Tickets \$10.00 in advance

- At the door \$15.00

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Available at:

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One South 24th. Street

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Holden House

1102 W. Pikes Peak Avenue

(719) 471-3980

And at any participating Inn during the tour.

All proceeds from the Annual Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour support the Old Colorado City History Center

~ FROM THE MUSEUM'S SHOP ~

By Betsy Evans

Watch for some new items in the bookstore. You just might find a Christmas gift, or two and you will still have money left over to, purchase your copy of Celinda Kaelin's book published this summer titled ***American Indians of the Pikes Peak Region*** which is part of the Images of America series. Ms. Kaelin will discuss her book at our November meeting where she will be signing personal copies. This history of American Indians in this region includes early records of First Nations' tribes long before the Utes became the most predominant. Many of you may remember Ms. Kaelin's programs at Old Colorado City Historical Society meeting nearly 10 years ago when she had published the book ***Journey Song***

At the History Center:

Tuesday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.

"Painting Red Rock Canyon"

Artist Laura Reilly paints light-filled landscapes in an impressionist style. Her passion for landscape goes beyond the canvas and is also manifest in her devotion to the preservation of Colorado's special places and landscapes through her commitment to the Palmer Land Trust.

She has developed a passion for Red Rock Canyon landscapes and will share that passion with us in a talk entitled "Painting Red Rock Canyon."

The talk is free, with donations accepted.

sponsored by Friends of Red Rock Canyon.

From the President's Desk-

Seventy-one people attended the annual dinner on September 25th. The festive evening included a delicious buffet, guests from other museums and historical groups, and Gordon Gray as the "extraordinary" Master of Ceremonies! Thank you, Gordon, Sharon Swint (chairman), and all those who made the evening a success!

Many people stated that Ed Nichols was VERY interesting and they were amazed to learn so much about the Colorado State Historical Society and its plans to change its location. Sharon Swint said, "Even people like Rob (her son-in-law) who is not a history type got into it. Rob loved Martha Lee who he sat next to. It was fun to see members dressed up and having a good time!"

Curt Neeley presented him with an autographed copy of Howbert's book. From OCCHS, Nichols received a copy of our walking tour book and a framed copy of Jack Ekstrom's painting of the original church building. He will remember OCCHS!

We look forward to our annual dinner next year and celebration of the 150 years of Colorado City. Dave Hughes and his committee presented sesquicentennial ideas at the recent Board meeting. Stay tuned for coming plans!

The OCCHS Board has added a "Student Membership" level of \$15 per year with a current student ID. In October, Dave Hughes attended a digitization workshop for libraries and museums. Sharon Swint attended a grant writing workshop.

We extend our special thanks to the community volunteers from United Way's Make A Difference Month who have been busy this October cleaning our yard, pruning bushes, planting bulbs, and mopping floors. You have been most helpful!

And, remember to tell your friends and sell tickets for the December 7th annual Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour major fundraiser for OCCHS. The ticket purchase includes a drawing for donated prizes from merchants, including an overnight stay at one of the B&Bs. (see Page 6). In the past, these earnings have help purchase sound equipment, museum mini blinds, and more. You, too, can help make a difference in our Society's progress!

Best regards...
Joanne Karlson

October Treasurer's Report

A couple events in September kept your treasurer hopping. First of all was our Annual Dinner revived on September 25th. We invited members, and anyone else interested in the remarks by the new President of the Colorado Historical Society, a Colorado Springs native, Ed Nichols telling about his vision for the future of the Society. We charged members \$25 and non-members \$35 for a nice dinner at the Westside's Clarion, with a cash bar. 70 signed up. And out of it came several new members.

We hosted Ed at the Center at 4:00 PM before the dinner so he could get to see our Center and learn about our Society. He was impressed. While we offered the gift of an engraved brick in the name of his extensive Colorado family, some members of which go back into the 1870s, he insisted on paying personally the \$100 for a brick engraved 'Nichols Family' which is now put in our patio.

We were given a \$150 donation for the dinner back in July. We sold \$2,100 in tickets. Our costs were \$2,225, which included advertising. As we planned, since this was not billed as a fund raiser, but a chance for our Society to be the catalyst for introducing an important state official to local people, we just about broke even.

Then during the month we paid a bargain \$400 for a reprint of the out-of-print Dr. Martinez book on Juan Batis de Anza's 1779 Spanish Expedition to kill or capture Comanche Chief Querno Verde - Green Horn - which involved an expedition down Ute Pass and a battle where Colorado Springs is today. So we are now the publisher. And discovered a local printer who can be the answer to our 'publishing' our own books and booklets in economical numbers.

Then just as the weather turned cold one of our two Center gas furnaces failed. So we had to replace it at an estimated cost of \$2,700. By the next newsletter we will know whether we also, to be up to code, have to put a new liner in the chimney, for \$2,000 more.

Big spending year, and now interest rates or us are very low. We will have taken in only \$22,000 this year, versus \$29,000 last year. Stay tuned.

Dave Hughes
Treasurer

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COMING EVENTS

Friday, November 14th 11 a.m. Open at 10:30 a.m.

Book Signing and Program with Celinda Kaelin

Don't miss Celinda Kaelin's presentation of her newest book, *American Indians of the Pikes Peak Region* which documents the archeology and culture of the First Nation peoples prior to Zeb Pike's arrival and the later interaction of the local Ute Indians with the Comanche, Apache, Arapahoe, Kiowa, Cheyenne and Lakota Indians. Her well researched book is part of the "Images of America" series and contains many photos. Ms. Kaelin has presented many programs about the Ute Indians and is President of the Pikes Peak Historical Society. Books are available for purchase, \$19.99 (less your member discount!).

Sunday, December 7 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

14th Annual Bed & Breakfast Inn Holiday Tour Fundraiser

Call the History Center for further information. Ticket prices are the same as last year.

For more information, call (719) 636-1225 or email history@oldcolo.com