

WEST WOOD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

Volume 24, Number 6

August, 2009

The Colorado Midland Band

by Mel McFarland

The subject of this article is brought out by the name of a certain piece of music recently spotted by Dave Hughes. A little band was the outgrowth of a desire for city status in 1894. As in the case with quite a few Colorado towns, then forging upon an era of growth and activity, Colorado City was in want of a band. As the subject became more and more a topic of conversation, a meeting was called and matters discussed. It was not until the evening of June 12, 1894 that this band was completely organized, but without an official name. But those steps led to one of the best musical organizations in the west.

It might be of some interest to some of you to know who composed the first members of the best band of Colorado City, please take note the

following: Al Newberry, Julius F. Falk , H.I. Shantz, S.O. Lynn, H. Creebough , T.W. Brand , J. H . Kelly, W. Kahl, Elmer Kendall, Charles Magnussun, Walter Clark, and Carl Leffler who presided over this organization. The band showed little progress and Carl resigned a short time. W. Musts a Midland fireman assumed leadership of the band, but was transferred to the western end of the railroad before he scarcely had a chance to accomplish anything as a director and the band was again in want of a director.

Howard Creebough was prevailed upon to conduct the band, and held that position only a short time. In recalling some of the incidents of band life in those days a band member became

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Old Colorado City Historical Society

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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 - splderwort@pcsys.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

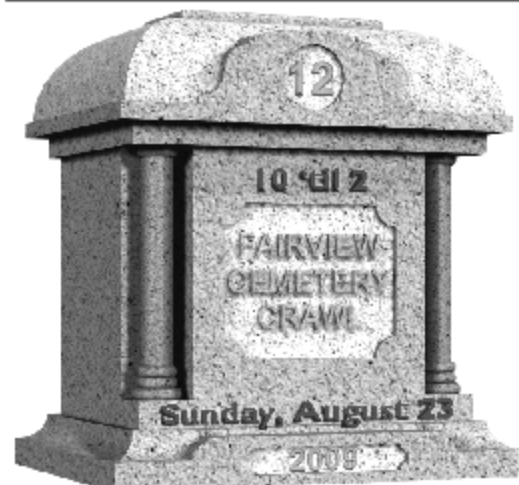
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	Sharon Swint	630-8384

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

Shirley Bonds
 Dorothy Borst
 Lois Carr
 Art Crawford
 Eugene Current
 Dennis & Karen Dosch
 Barbara Downs
 Cynthia Estes
 Patricia Fejdedem
 Freudenburg Family
 Charles Garvin Family
 Ken Geddes
 Mike Hartley
 Richard Jamison
 Werner Karlson
 Owen Knox
 Leo & Miki Knudson
 Arlene Lanman
 David Leeman & Kristin Berg
 Donald Meyer
 Verna Nelson
 Mary Jeanne Owen
 Molly Pace
 Sandra & Robert Patchell
 Shirley Sampson
 Michael Smith & Sarah Overdorff
 Jack & Betsy Shoup
 Margaret Smith
 John Sweet
 Mary Stone Tate
 Dorothy Vidmar
 Debbie Wallbann



In Memory of
Ira B. Current

(d. May 2009 at age 98-1/2)

Ira Current, the oldest member of our society at his passing, was a great contributor to our Society's graphic knowledge of the great gold mill and railroad days of Colorado City. Born in Colorado Springs in 1910 and living in his youth on the far west side of Colorado City he was a budding still and motion picture photographer - who matured into a full and very long career in the photography, arts, and sciences at Agfa Ansco Company, in Navy service in WWII, at the Rochester



Institute of Technology and even working with the Smithsonian Institute, and with early television. But even as a teen youth in Colorado City he has left us in our archives and on our web site, and on Penrose Public Library Cable Channel wonderful still and moving pictures of boys growing up in Colorado City, charging down hills in the earliest Soap Box racers, on skis, climbing rocks, and of the mighty engines and of the Midland Railroad. He donated over 60,000 negatives, prints and slides as well as over 200,000 feet of 16 mm movies, amassed over a 7 decade span, to the archives of the University of Colorado. He left us and the world priceless scenes we now cherish.

CALLING ALL DESCENDENTS OF EARLY COLORADO CITY RESIDENTS!

*OCCHS invites members and non-members to
 share their family history,
 especially stories and mementos before 1917.*

During this Sesquicentennial year, we have discovered the richness of untold family histories as several people have contacted our website or the History Center. Some think that their stories are just "everyday, nothing noteworthy", but put together, they give our archives a truer picture of life during the early days. And some have even found connections with some of our current members, such as classmates.

These histories are most important for our records. We don't want to lose them! Please phone, write or email the History Center to let us know of your interest. We will be glad to contact you.

AUGUST 28 AFA TOUR

As the newsletter goes to press, plans for the members only tour of the Air Force Academy and the historic Burgess cabin site are still tentative with our AFA contacts.

All interested OCCHS members should call or email the History Center by August 18. We will contact you with details and final plans, including transportation and lunch.

A LETTER to OCCHS

One of the letters sent with donations for the Sesquicentennial Monument:

"The enclosed check is to be donated for the monument in honor of my grandparents, Bruno and Ethel Vogler, and my father, Louis Stark.

Bruno Vogler was an engineer for the Midland Railroad.

Ethel Vogler was one of the 1st telephone operators in Colorado City.

Louis Stark was at one time employed at Golden Cycle Mill as were other members of my family.

Keep up the good work. Wish I were closer to volunteer.

Sincerely,

Pat Stark Jacobs, Tigard OR"

OCCHS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Archives/Artifacts department is proceeding with a major project to modernize and protect our large collection of photographs and archives by digitizing this fascinating collection! However, we need a dedicated computer to accomplish this task. A new scanner has already been donated. The expense for the computer though, is not in our budget so we're looking for community support. Any donations of equipment or money designated for this intent is welcome.

Band continued from page 1

one of the best musicians in the band said, "We ventured out one evening to do a little serenading and undertook to play a piece on the march, but the attempt was a complete failure." This little experience disheartened several of the boys, for boys they were or nearly so and for a time it was thought the band would break up, but some of its members managed to keep up enough enthusiasm to keep the band together. Shortly afterward a fourth leader was installed.

This time it became the duty of George F. Stuart to wield the baton. While Mr. Stuart held this position the band advanced in music and in membership. On the 8th of May, 1895 the band gave its first public concert and was patronized well. It proved to be a success both musically and financially and created such an enthusiasm among the members and the public generally that a renewed spirit was invoked at its future rehearsals and each member worked hard for the success of their organization. The proceeds of their initial concert was devoted to the purchase of uniforms. Considerable outside playing was done during the summer of this year and the winter found the members more anxious than ever to advance the cause.

One evening in May, 1896 after an enjoyable rehearsal was over a few of the enthusiasts remained in the rehearsal room to talk over band matters. The membership had then passed the twenty mark and more uniforms were necessary. It was at this little meeting that the idea of having the railroad officially sponsor the group was conceived, the proposition however was not openly discussed until several weeks later when the matter was brought before a meeting of all the members. The proposition was heartily approved by all and plans were immediately adopted for the reorganization of the band. After the reorganization was consummated the objects of the band were laid before the officials of the road, and while they accepted the idea in a most gratifying manner, they were more or less handicapped in giving the organization much financial assistance, for the road was then in the hands of the receiver. Their good will, however, lended much in advancing the organization and in a short time the band was in possession of new uniforms. This time the design was of the Ute Indian, symbol of the Colorado Midland. As a band their uniform consisted of a regulation Indian headdress, buckskin suit, moccasins, with

hunting shirt, the pantaloons being fringed with red velvet. The headdress was made by the Sioux Indians on the Pine Ridge Reservation in Dakota, while the stripes of paint which ornamented the faces of the musicians in truly Indian style was painted by a Ute artist from Grand Junction. Drum Major W.H. Bosworth was a striking feature. Being six feet six, the headgear made him over eight feet tall, at 220 pounds, he made his drum major evolutions with a long Indian spear. On his arm he carried a tall Colorado Midland Indian shield. Later traditional blue uniforms replaced the buckskins, which were then only used for special occasions.

Mr. Charles Dipp had been engaged to conduct the Colorado Midland Band and in October, 1896 the band made its debut in Denver at the Festival of Mountain and Plain and carried off first prize in a contest of twenty-two musical organizations. Upon their return home they were received with open arms so to speak, by the public spirited residents of Colorado City. The officials of the road also renewed their confidence in the organization and did all in their power to advance the cause. The band continued to prosper, the membership increased and its reputation as a band spread from ocean to ocean. The band traveled the country, including trips to Washington, D.C. for inaugural parades.

In 1897 it began its season's work with two days engagement at Denver City Park. Shortly after it played a six day engagement in Salt Lake City, Utah for the pioneer's jubilee, a two day engagement at Grand Junction and numerous minor engagements besides a series of thirty engagements at Manitou. It went to Denver again and competed with twenty other bands for honors and was given third place, the McCook, Nebraska band taking second, and the Telluride band first. Early in November Mr. M.O. Barnes of Colorado Springs succeeded Mr. Charles Dipp as director of the band. Mr. Barnes caused a great change in the condition of this famous organization. Mr. Barnes, a man of high musical education and ability, and his interpretation of such composers as Rossini, Wagner, Sousa, and other famous writers is something most pleasing in the ear of a musical admirer. Later a unique piece was commissioned, the Colorado Midland March. It was used regularly in parades and used to open summer concerts.

The Colorado Midland Band grew to a membership of thirty five men and hardly a day passed but what brought application for membership from musicians both east and west. During its organization it earned in the neighborhood of four thousand dollars, owned a large library of music of both classics and popular grades owns over \$500 worth of instruments and has the finest instrumentation and set of instruments of any band in the United States

One of the beautiful features of the organization was the character of its members. The use of intoxicants was strictly forbidden at its concerts, and no applicant was accepted who was addicted to the influence of liquor. Some four-fifths of its members were employees of the various departments of the Midland shops, and when not working for the company they devoted their spare time to the interests of the band.

Over the years the band's membership changed as the men changed jobs, but the tradition grew. The band played monthly, and weekly concerts in area band shells. In early August, 1918 the Colorado Midland Railroad stopped running trains. The concerts in 1918 were scheduled right up through September, and were not canceled. Once the Colorado Midland was closed formally in 1920, the band, for a time became the Colorado City Band, but it eventually faded away as the members left for other railroads or bands.

SHAMROCK RANCH

By David Wismer, with Gary T. Wright

The story of Shamrock ranch is essentially the story of earliest Old Colorado City's prime lumber supply. Author/Owner Mr. Wismer told it's history well during his book signing at OCCHC on (date unsure). His ranch is still the largest undeveloped property in present-day Black Forest covering approximately 4 square miles. During it's glory days the then-named "Pinery" was the worlds' largest concentration of Ponderosa Pine, according to one Pikes Peak Cog Railway conductor. The trees often grew to 3 ft. in diameter, and Irving Howbert wrote of his hauls to-and-from the saw mills as a two day ordeal for a very young man. Wagon breakdowns under the heavy loads were a constant hazard, as were attacks by hostile Plains tribes

during the early years up to 1869 and the decisive defeat of Tall Bull's Cheyenne Dog Soldiers near Sterling, Colorado. The tribes favored the Pinery location for concealed base camps.

One of the Pinery's earliest of the 15 or so saw mills was operated by our own Calvin Husted, who popularized the Victorian-style Husted House at 30th and Bijou. Calvin prospered for many years in his businesses and eventually controlled extensive holdings in the Pinery. But tragedy struck him down later in life. Alcoholism abetted several poor business decisions, seriously depleting his fortune. Eventually his wife and family left him and he died a pauper at the El Paso County Poor Farm at 21st Street and Rio Grande Street.

Another notable owner in the ranch's history was the Maria McKean Allen Family of Philadelphia. Husband and banker Ben Allen managed the ranch and raised pure bred short-horn cattle. They also built what was known as Cheyenne Court in the Broadmoor area, the remnants of which now operate as the Episcopal Church of Our Savior. Cheyenne Court contained 72 rooms to support its extensive staff and activities for some time until Mrs. Allen discovered Mr. Allen's extra-marital activities around 1920 in one of the aforementioned rooms. He told her to pack up and leave. She told him the house and the money were hers and ordered him out. She then ordered Cheyenne Court torn down, perhaps to assuage her umbrage. Maria saved the bricks and roof tiles to build today's Cheyenne Place, which she willed to the Episcopal Church upon her death in 1950. The rebuilt estate contained a mere 26 rooms and exists as you might view it today. Mrs. Allen had enough bricks left over to build the magnificent wall surrounding the place. Craftsmanship was excellent. During my several tours there as a maintenance mason, I've not found a single crack.

Mr. Wismer pays due respect to the turbulent weather atop our "Divide", adding to the reports of both Major Marcy and Irving Howbert. He mentions the severe blizzard of Halloween Oct. 30, 1864 which became one of many hardships which beset the 3rd Colorado Volunteer on it's approach to the historically significant Sand Creek Battle.

If you favor old area photos as much as I do, I surmise you will enjoy Mr. Wismer's book.

Reviewed by Curt Neeley

New Acquisitions at the History Center

By Barbara Barbaro

The following are archives and artifacts recently received by the Old Colorado City Historical Society through the generosity and thoughtfulness of many people:

- *Ore cart track found under the foundation of a home in Colorado City, from Russ Dearborn of Colorado Springs
- *Several items of clothing, including a vintage man's frock coat, vest, and top hat, and four costume dresses depicting the era of Colorado City, from OCCHS member Lucille Cunningham
- *Handmade wooden box, patented February 19, 1889, from OCCHS member Liz Geiss
- *Pair of women's white gloves, from OCCHS member Martha Curry
- *Complete set of all Hub articles written by OCCHS member Dave Hughes (on indefinite loan to the Society), and a 1976 Colorado Springs centennial calendar autographed by Dr. Harvey Carter of Colorado College, from Dave Hughes
- *Jar embossed "McLaughlins Manor House Coffee", and a wooden Kraft American Cheese box, circa 1930, from OCCHS member Marge Knorr
- *Book, "Cheyenne Mountain Ranch", by Marshall Sprague, from Laurie Golding from Austin, Texas
- *Four newspapers, including Colorado Springs Independent dated 6/20/1924, The Iris dated 12/2/1899, Evening Telegraph dated 12/3/1901, and the Gazette Telegraph dated 5/23/1976, from Juana Noble of Colorado Springs
- *Vintage clothing, including scarves, lace mitts, blouse, "double" cape, and mother-of-pearl small box, from Barbara Fast of Point Arena, California
- *Victorian period costumes and accessories from Dick Dalley of Colorado Springs
- *Book, "Florissant Colorado Pioneer Cemetery" from authors Laura Moncrief and Nancy Boyd, of Florissant
- *Book, "Book of Colorado Springs", dated 1933 by Manley Ormes, signed by Robert Ormes, from Bev and Jim Mason
- *Military officer's undress cap, circa 1895, from Bert Stewart of Cascade

Van Tour: Glorieta Pass Civil War Battlefield

Friday & Saturday, September 25 & 26

Follow the route of the Colorado volunteers from Fort Union, NM to Glorieta Pass.

Friday, September 25:

8:30 AM: Leave the OCCHC for Fort Union National Historic Park for a 45 minute guided tour. Following the tour, we will go to the Baptist Conference Center near the Glorieta Battlefield for dinner, lodging, and an educational program.

Saturday, September 26

9:00 AM: Leave for Pecos National Historic Park for a guided tour of the Glorieta battle sites. Following the tour, return to Colorado Springs.

Cost per person: \$75 (double occupancy) to \$100 (single occupancy)

Sign up deadline: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12.
Contact Phil McDonald at 719-532-0881 or philmcd@comcast.net to sign up, or for further information.



MESSAGES FOR THE FUTURE

Add your words to the Sesquicentennial Time Capsule --- to be read in 50 years? 100 years? Even 150 years?

Please submit your comments to the History Center by August 10th.

The time capsule burial ceremony will be Wednesday, August 12 at 5:30 p.m. on the OCCHS Memorial Patio, with a special toast to our founders.

From the President's Desk-

The month of August means Founder's Day weekend...a highlight of our Sesquicentennial year! For times and dates, check the monthly calendar or call the History Center. Don't miss Friday's Art Show & Sale featuring artworks by member, Jack Ekstrom, with a wine and cheese reception. Jo Cervone has planned a wide variety of vendors and entertainment in Bancroft Park on Saturday. The 65-member concert band will perform at noon and immediately following the "Midland Band March", the historical monument will be unveiled and dedicated about 12:35 p.m. We especially welcome members of the Jacob Schmitt and Judge Stone families who will be attending from Idaho and Indiana.

Meanwhile you can wander through the 1862 Union Army Dodd's Company C Civil War encampment, join the Victorian Dancers, visit the Garvin Cabin and our Museum, or even join the jury during the Gunfighter's portrayal of the Devlin trial.

The History Center's Memorial Patio will be the site when the time capsule is buried on Aug. 12th, memorial bricks are placed, and a special toast to our founders.

Needless to say, volunteers for these events are greatly needed - especially for Founders Day and the Cemetery Crawl! Please contact the History Center if you can help. As the Tuesday Nights in July programs end, we thank our program presentors and members: Ben Benoit, Phil McDonald, Don Ellis, Merrilyn Caduff, and Bill Koerner, the Ice Cream Social chairman: Marge Knorr, the Marigreen Pines Tour chair: Jo Cervone (also our fabulous media "guru"), the talents of additional media specialists: Don Ellis, Jack Ekstrom, Dave Hughes, and our faithful "grounds keepers": Janice deChadenedes, Judy Willey, supervising volunteers from Goodwill.

At the August OCCHS Board meeting, two new positions were approved. Betsy Evans is reducing her hours in the Bookstore so we are looking for a new Bookstore Manager. Betsy's shoes have grown larger over the past eight years and we are thankful she will continue to share her expertise! Rebecca Clark has been organizing the Bookstore bookkeeping onto the computer. Suzie Schorsch and others have assumed some responsibilities, and a Bookstore Manager decision will be reached before September 1.

With the increasing number of volunteers and projects in the archival and collections areas, Barbara Barbaro was appointed to the new position of "Coordinator of Collections Department". We thank Barbara and her group as we see this area continue to grow. "In the works" is a new exhibit in late August featuring the 1909-1935 Fremont Experimental Forest (above the Manitou Incline) coordinated with member, Erik Swab, and sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service,

OCCHS, and Friends of the Peak. Bring your friends to the museum open house on Friday evening, Sept 5, and Eric's program on Friday morning, Sept 12.

OCCHS was recently awarded the Bookshelf collection of reference books and materials valued about \$500 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. These will be a very valuable resource in the Collections Department.

Regards to all,

Joanne Karlson

Treasurer's Report June-July, 2009

As of Board Meeting time, 20 July, our fund for the Monument reached and exceeded our goal of \$11,500. We have \$12,067 in hand as of this newsletter, with some other pledges promised. So we are \$567 over what we contracted for with Wilhelm Monuments. There may be a few more expenses related to the monument, but any surplus will go to continued Sesquicentennial Celebration expenses.

As I have warned before, the economy has so forced down interest rates that we would be lucky to earn even \$2,000 from our invested Endowment Funds by December. We were facing even lower rates until we took advantage of an opportunity to put some of our savings into a much higher earnings Revenue Bond. On July 22d we bought a \$50,000 'A' rated 15 year Colorado Springs Hospital Bond earning 5.75% interest, payable semi annually. Only cost us a \$254.95 premium. We left the balance of our savings, which includes the rest of our Endowment fund - \$50,798.49 in our checking account for now. We may put the \$40,600 portion of that which is the balance of our Fixed Endowment - into a Bond later.

So we may be getting back to earning at least \$5,000 a year - again - from our Endowment fund, the earnings of which the Board may expend as needed. Which amount is at least 20% of our total annual revenue. We will need it. Our insurance just went up, as has our event, printing, security, postage costs, our water bill is going to double in time, and we have another flakey furnace.

I can thank Marilyn Eisenhour, Financial Advisor in the local Westside Edward Jones office for letting me know such a high yield bond was available. (It sold out fast) Marilyn is a true (born and raised) Westsider, Coronado High graduate, and Regis College Accounting degree graduate. Several years with Jones. She was looking out for us. I think I persuaded her to become a member! Our society needs financial knowledge like hers in these coming tight times!

Dave Hughes, Treasurer

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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AUGUST CALENDAR

Celebrating 160 Years of Colorado City History (1869-2009)

- Friday, August 7** **ARTWALK - Art Show & Open House at History Center Museum**
5 'til 8 P.M. Collection of varied media by Jack Ekstrom, local artist, featuring scenes of Old Colorado City. Proceeds benefit History Center & Museum. Reception.
- Saturday, August 8** **Annual Founder's Day & Sesquicentennial Celebration**
in Bancroft Park (W. Colorado Avenue & 24th St.) Free
- 8 'til 3 Arts & Crafts and Entertainment in the Park, Garvin Cabin open
8 'til 3 Civil War Portrayal of 1862 Union Military Encampment, Dodds' Company
10:30 Local Victorian Society Dancers, with audience participation
Noon New Horizons Band Concert with Ed Nuccio,
break at 12:30, continue to 1:15
12:35 Dedication of OCCHS Historical Monument to City of Colorado Springs
2 'til 3 Rocky Mountain Gunslingers & Devlin Trial
- Wednesday, August 12** **Ceremony to Bury Time Capsule**
5:30 P.M. History Center Memorial Patio - followed by reception and museum visitation
If you wish to include a message for future generations, please submit by August
10 to the History Center.
- Sunday, August 23** **Cemetery Crawl Fundraiser at Fairview Cemetery**
10 'til 2 Historical vignettes portraying life (and death!) from earliest Colorado City days.
Contact History Center for tickets and more information. Last tour begins 2 p.m.
- Friday, August 28** **Members Only Tour - Air Force Academy & Historic Burgess Cabin**
Reservations required.

NEW Museum Hours: Tues. thru Sat, 11 - 4 plus July & August Sundays 1 'til 4 Free Admission.