

The Colorado City Blacksmith Family

by Dave Hughes

Right in the middle of Colorado City, one block south of Colorado Avenue on today's 25th Street - 5th Street then - was the long lasting Schweikhardt's Blacksmith shop. As soon as the first two automobiles appeared in Colorado City in 1908, it also became also the earliest and a long lasting Auto Repair business.

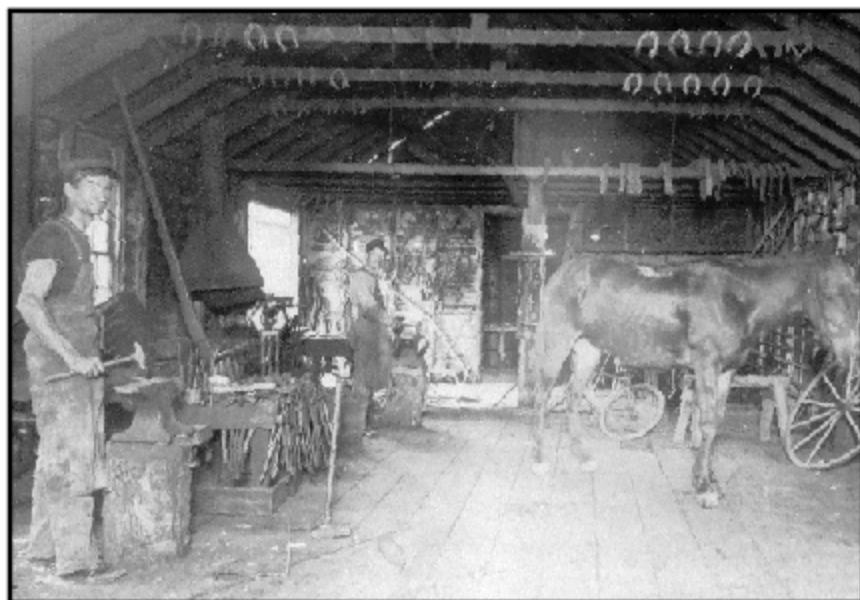
Everybody from three generations of the Schweikhardt's family were involved with the business between 1908 and 1944. Fortunately for our collection of Colorado City and Westside history two of the daughters of Ralph and Florence Schweikhardt still live in Colorado Springs - Shirley Fallis and Marjorie Evan. They are members of our Historical society, and have shared with us photographs and stories about their life and the lives of their

parents and grandparents in Colorado City and Westside Colorado Springs. Their family traces far back to their ancestors in Wittenburg, Germany, one young ancestor of whom even had contact with an officer of Napoleon's Army in 1812 who gave him a European sword that was in the family until the 1950s.

Unusually, it was the sisters father, Ralph, who undertook to research, write down and compile their extensive family history, completing it in 1971. That is priceless history, not only for their family, but gives our society members great insight into the lives of another of our old Colorado City families. Usually it is the women in a family who compile such genealogical records. But the father was the one who did it after he retired.

Like many other German immigrants - such as Jacob Schmidt of Colorado City, whose story we have told previously - the Schweikhardt family came to America in 1842 for the same reason he did - so they would not be drafted into the Prussian Army.

The family worked their way westward, through Indiana, Kansas, and into Missouri by covered wagon, their great grandfather serving honorably on the Union side of the Civil War. In the 1870's son Frederick William started farming and blacksmithing in Missouri. Then with the lure of the Rockies, he moved his family to Colorado



The first - 1908 - Schweikhardt's Blacksmith Shop at 106 South (today's) 25th Street.

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Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
<http://history.oldcolorado.com> 636-1225

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

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

Brig. Gen'l & Mrs. Philip Caine
 Charles & Sylvia Emmors
 Adalbert Goertz
 Edward R. Gray
 Gordon Gray
 Don Kallaus
 Janet Rose Lyons
 Jeanette Meyer
 David & Lynne Murray
 Donna Phinizy
 Albert Rich
 Lynn Rowsey
 Suzanne & Thomas Schorsch
 Eric & Elizabeth Schwab
 Barbara Scott
 Debora J. Scott-Edson
 Norma Stull
 Mr. & Mrs. John Timberlake
 Bruce Zimmerman

Arts & Crafts in Bancroft Park

Saturday, June 20th
 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

25 Crafters + room for more!

Music by Bill Emery
 New Century Big Band
 and

Jessum Buds - bluegrass

Quilt Exhibit
 Jump Rope Exhibition

Donate your unwanted
 cookbooks & perennial plants
 for our OCCHS Table

For more information contact
 Jo Cervone 266-9096

Volunteer Spotlight – meet Don Kallaus

By Barbara Barbaro

Don was born in Elkhart, Kansas, a small town situated at the juncture of Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma. As a kid, Don would often visit his aunt and uncle who lived in Colorado Springs, and the lure of Colorado's beauty and history eventually brought him here for good.

As a youngster, after school hours Don worked at his local hometown barber shop sweeping hair. Becoming enamored with the social life in the barber shop world, in 1966 he decided to attend barber school in Denver after high school. His first barbering position was on the west side, at the L&D Barber Shop at 3126 W. Colo Ave. His barbering years were quite successful. Still looking for a challenge though, in 1984 he left the barber business and became a stock and bond broker, and even had the opportunity to trade shares on the New York Stock Exchange in 1985.

Paul Idelman, a good friend of his, initially got him interested in photography and graphics, and showed him the world of digital photography. Don first heard about the History Center through Paul, who was very active with the Old Colorado City Historical Society at that time. Around 1997 Paul needed some photo reproduction done in preparation of the grand opening of the History Center, and asked Don if he would be interested in

taking on the task, which he did. Around the year 2000 he decided to seriously pursue his love of photography and graphics design, and turned his passion into a new career. The rest is history, you might say.

Don became interested in the history of the west side back in the days of when he worked in the barber shop on Colorado Avenue. The shop owner was originally from Cripple Creek, thusly, much of the clientele would drive down from Cripple Creek to get their hair cut, and Don listened intently to the exciting stories the miners would relate as they sat in the barber chair. Those stories had a great affect on him, and over time he developed a love of the history of the area.

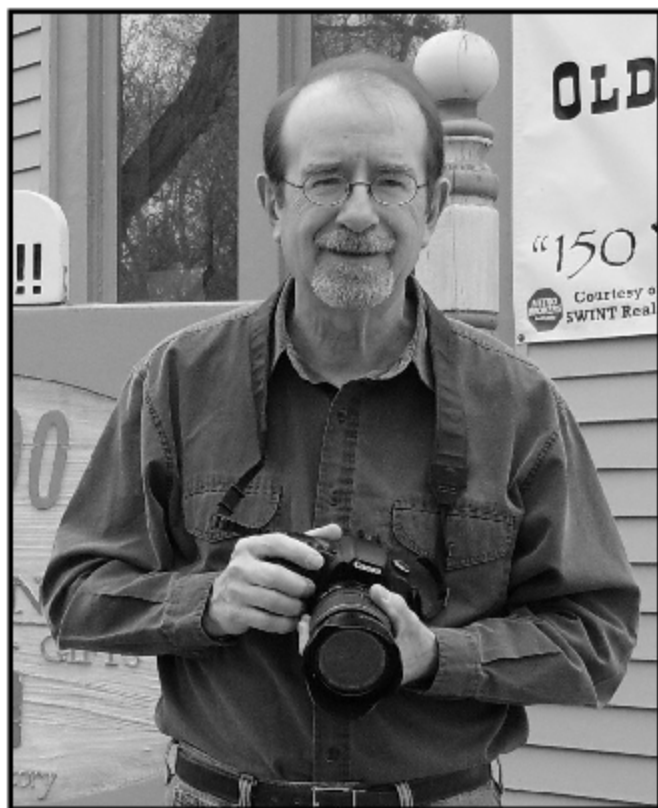
I asked Don if he had any idea why so many people are attracted to the history of Old Colorado City and the west side. He believes that first and foremost, it was a charming, nostalgic era with lots of history and lore. He says that Old Colorado City history gives him a sense of place, knowing what came before, and that knowing about local history enables a person to "still feel the pulse of what happened back then."

With his fascination of the overall development of the local area, Don says that his biggest regret is that he didn't do more photographing of the west side in the 1960s when Old Colorado City was tired, old, and essentially boarded up. Having missed the opportunity of not documenting the way things were then, he is now directing his passion to bringing history forward in his photographs.

Being a member of the History Center's Tech team keeps him fully charged and engaged. As an example, he just recently completed digitizing every OCCHS West Word newsletter ever generated, an extremely time consuming project. Having viewed most of the photo collection downstairs, he says he's excited about getting the photographic history "out of the basement and onto the network." He recently met with Jerry Travers, another OCCHS volunteer, and together they plan to set up a standard for the digitization of the large assortment of photos the Center has accumulated. The digitized collection can then be made ready for easy and quick presentation via print or slide shows.

In addition to maintaining his busy professional schedule and volunteering his time with OCCHS, as a "hobby" Don and his wife Pat, enjoy purchasing houses, remodeling them, and then putting them back on the market.

Thank you, Don, for devoting as much time as you do in helping bridge the gap between the historic Old Colorado City and the new digital world!



Blacksmith continued from page 1

Springs in 1908, and after working for a time in a blacksmith shop there, he bought out a blacksmith at 106 South 5th Street in Colorado City. He then became 'Schweikhardt the Blacksmith' of Colorado City. That location would be 106 South 25th street today.

His shop, which grew over the years, and expanded into another building to 206 South 5th, sat on ground which today is a private parking lot right across the street from the Westside Post Office. The original buildings are no longer there. But we have several wonderful photographs of the shop when it just had a dirt floor, then when it had a wooden floor, and was expanded. All the pictures have family members in it. With horseshoes nailed to the overhead timbers. They were proud of their work.

At their blacksmith shop where grandfather Fredrick did much work himself and supervised his son, and his worker Tom Mitchell they shod horses for everyone, including for noted people from Colorado Springs, including General Palmer's horses.

The family lived in several houses in Colorado City. Shirley remembers, and can point out the one at 407 North 24th Street where she was born.

But the home they all remember most was at 2226 West Bijou which they bought and lived in until their parents were both gone. It was built in 1888. It is photographed and described in our History Society walking tour book "In and Around Old Colorado City." (you can buy that book off our website at <http://history.oldcolo.com> and have it shipped.)

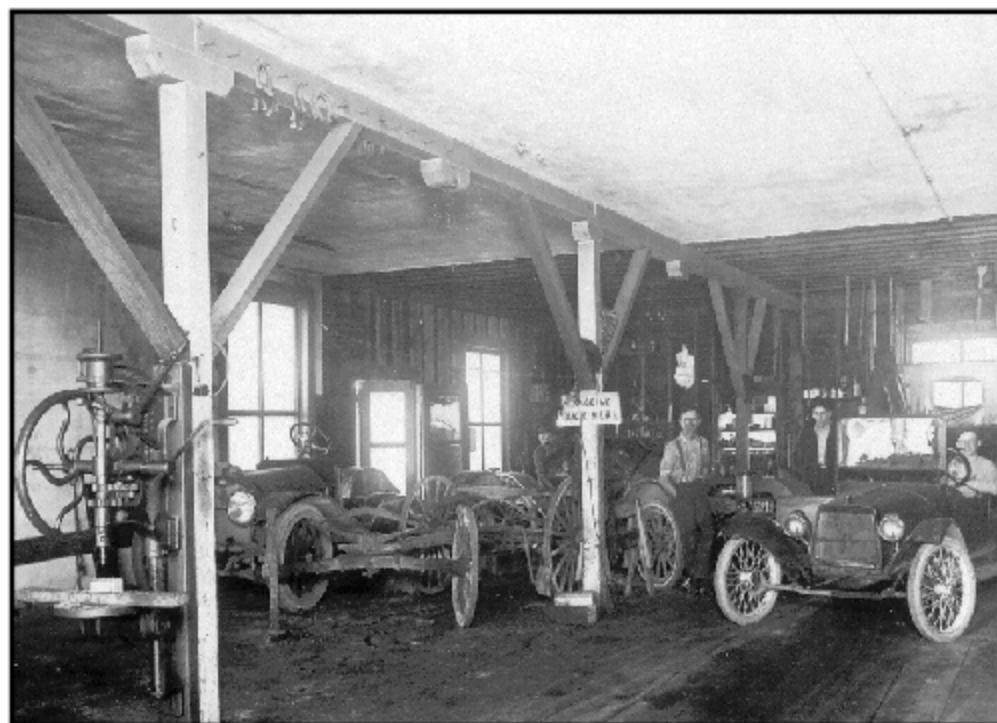
Many stories came from that house. Shirley remembers the day when her sister Marjorie was married there. She can point in the picture of it to the upstairs room where her sister got into her wedding gown, the stairs she went down, and then where she was married "at the front window."

And she points to the second floor porch in the back where, because he chewed tobacco, their grandfather had to sleep because his wife wouldn't let him sleep in their bedroom.

The two girls were different. Shirley was, as she admits, a 'Tom Boy'. While Marjorie was more a little lady. Shirley liked to work in the blacksmith shop with her father and grandfather. She hand pumped the bellows that kept the fire hot for the branding irons. When they started repairing cars she was under them working away. Once she just was about overcome by carbon monoxide while

working beside her father and grandfather. Her grandfather had to pull her out and revive her. He called her his "Little Greasemonkey." Her mother thoroughly disapproved. Her sister Majorie excelled in math at Colorado Springs school where both graduated. She did the books for the business.

Grandfather W.F. had realized early on that automobiles would take the place of the horse and buggy. In 1910 he sold the first delivery truck to the Thrasher and Son Grocery on Colorado Avenue. When the



When the Blacksmith shop started fixing up the earliest autos in Colorado Springs or Colorado City



The house at 2226 West Bijou that the family lived in after annexation .
Tobacco-chewing gramps had to sleep in the porch

Model T Fords began to be popular he converted them to commercial use by removing the passenger car bodies and building truck bodies on them. He did that until the car makers realized there was a real market for light trucks and started building them commercially. But he continued to build special truck beds for local companies as late as 1936.

Even after W.F. sold his business in 1944, he continued to work with his tools . He made many wrought-iron articles from door hinges to chandeliers that are still in fine homes of the area. He was a iron working craftsman still at 75 years old. His granddaughter Shirley still keeps his anvil and tools. Her daughter, will have them in time.

W.F.'s son, Ralph, worked at both farming and in auto companies in his earlier years going into business with his father in 1931. They named it "Schweikhardt and Son Garage. After they sold the business in 1944 Ralph took his family to a farm east of Colorado Springs. Eventually he came back to Colorado Springs and worked for 20 more years in the Colorado Springs Auto Parts Company owned by Gene McCleary, who grew up on the Westside and was later the Mayor of Colorado Springs. Ralph retired in 1967 and died in 1977.

Grandfather William Frederick had taught Men's Bible Class at the Trinity Methodist Church that was still standing at the corner of

23d and Pikes Peak Avenue, a block from his home, for 28 years before he died in 1956 at 87.

The Schweikhardt's were a true Colorado City Blacksmith Family, and the earliest auto repairmen in town.

MARIGREEN PINES

2009 TOUR - Members only

Saturday, July 18th

starting at 12 noon

We are organizing a "Members Only Tour" of the historical 1920's Marigreen Pines estate which is located along Ute Pass.

We have reserved 20 tickets at a discount rate of \$12 each. Ticket sales are final - no refunds. Make checks payable to Jo Cervone. Payment can be made at the History Center (place your name on the sign up sheet) or sent to:

Jo Cervone
2920 Rhapsody Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Payment must be received by June 8th.

Maps, driving directions, and specific instructions will be provided later. For those that wish, we will carpool from the History Center. Hope you can join us for this historic tour that is only offered every three years.

The estate is not handicapped accessible.

The tour is a Fundraiser for the
Ute Pass Historical Society.

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
MINUTES ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 8, 2009

Friday, 10:30 A.M.

Before the meeting there was a service of coffee and goodies to the past members of the Boards of directors. Following was a presentation by Dave Hughes of the new Web Site the Tech committee has designed and installed.

**Joanne Karlson called the ANNUAL
MEETING to order at 10:35 A.M.**

Betty Baker, Membership Committee, reported we have a quorum of members present - 28 in attendance, membership now is 291.

President Joanne honored past board members present: Marti Walker, past secretary; Lucille Cunningham, past president; Betty Baker, past vice president; Don Ellis, past secretary; Jo Cervone, past secretary; and Betsy Evans, past secretary. (Those who arrived after meeting was adjourned were Jack Ekstrom, Leland Feitz, Don Kallaus.)

Joanne told the assembly that in the packet they received as they signed in there are a series of reports from president, vice president, treasurer, and the book store. Please read at your leisure. In addition, a form for comments concerning the Museum Association to be placed in the time capsule when it is buried in the patio. A motion was presented by Lucille Cunningham and seconded by Phil McDonald to accept the reports. Motion passed.

Meeting moved on to the election of four new Board Members. Three present members running for another term: Dave Hughes, treasurer; Sharon Swint, tech committee; and Phil McDonald, vice president and membership. A new candidate, Paul Shepard, volunteers in the archives, a retired teacher. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion to close the nominations seconded and passed. It was moved we cast a unanimous ballot. Passed and seconded.

Joanne announced Dave Hughes will be receiving the Dana Crawford Award from the Colorado Preservation Society, Inc. Those who would like to attend the awards banquet should contact Joanne for ticket information.

Jo Cervone announced the Friends of Ute Pass will have an open house tour. We are welcome, as members of the OCCHS only. The tour will be \$12, payable in advance, on Saturday, July 18 at noon. In addition, the Pancake Breakfast needs more volunteer help.

Marge Knorr needs Pies for the Ice Cream Social, July 7, at 6:30.

Bev Disch sent a message she needs more bakery items for the bake sale Territory Days. Bring in Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Museum will be open 11 to 4 all three days.

Joanne announced there will be a Board Meeting immediately after this Annual Meeting in the library as per our Old Colorado City Historical Society Revised By Laws. The annual dinner will be casual at Ghost Town, this year. Certificates of Appreciation will be sent to all former board members in their honor. No further business.

Meeting adjourned 11 A.M.

Janice deChadenedes,
OCCHS Board Secretary

**OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY May 8, 2009**

Board of Directors met in the library immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Old Colorado City Historical Society, as per Revised By Laws, at 11:45. Present were Paul Shepard, Phil McDonald, Sharon Swint, Dave Hughes, Joanne Karlson, and Jan deChadenedes. Absent were Art Crawford, Bev Disch, and Tom Hendrix.

Joanne announced the election of officers for the Board of Directors. Sharon moved the existing officers retain their offices, as it leads to consistence. Motion passed.

We need to confirm that the treasurer must be a member of the board of directors, since Dave Hughes may want to be relieved of the duties of the board, and we do not have a well trained replacement.

We will have our regular meeting of the Board of Directors the third Monday in May, at 9 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55.

Janice deChadenedes,
OCCHS Board Secretary

From the President's Desk-

Communication with our membership is an on-going challenge! Since this issue of WestWord is for two months, please check the OCCHS calendar of Summer Dates. We hope you and your friends or family can enjoy some of these events. The August newsletter will have details of more Sesquicentennial events. A sneak peak - Founder's Day includes a concert featuring the historic "Midland Band March".

This issue includes the minutes of the May 8th OCCHS Annual Meeting where we enjoyed visiting with past OCCHS Board members. Dave Hughes' program gave a practical presentation of our updated on-line capability and progress of the digitization project. If you have a computer, we encourage you to sign in as a member and explore our website. It is growing! You can also go on-line to take advantage of renewing your membership or purchasing books and event tickets.

We are considering using the telephone tree again this fall along with occasional email reminders or announcements. If you want to be added to these mailings, email history@oldcolo.com with "request email" in the subject line. If you would like calls from the telephone tree, please phone the History Center and leave a message for Jan or Phil. With more "members only" tours and events, this will help with reservations and planning transportation.

Last month's request for vintage clothing for our "costume closet" had a wonderful response. Special thanks to each of you...and we can still use more items.

A few coming highlights are the July 7th Old-Fashioned Ice Cream & Pie Social on the History Center patio, Mel McFarland will be adding some items to the railroading exhibit, and the "members only" tours in July and August with a fall trip being planned.

Best regards,

Joanne Karlson

Treasurer's Report May, 2009

As of Board Meeting time, May 18th, our fund raising for the Monument reached \$11,062 with only \$438 to go to reach our needed \$11,500.

We got an enormous financial break when we went to price the cost of covering the ugly gray slab in Bancroft Park on which the Rocky Mountain Rose Granite Monument will be placed. Clarence Gianarelli, owner of Ideal Concrete company who would do the work announced to both the Society and the Park Board he would totally donate a decorative replacement slab and also replace the old flagstones around it - which he priced at \$25,000. He has done similar work with attractive work that does not look like concrete around the base of Monuments in Memorial and America the Beautiful Park. A very generous local man. Thanks Clarence!

The check for the \$5,000 Ackerman fund was received from El Pomar on the 16th of May.

We had to pay the Park Department \$609 for park rental, damage deposits, and \$515 for an Insurance Policy which covers us and the City for our two summer Park events - the upcoming Craft Fair and Founder's Day.

Our paying membership has surged recently - we now have 290 members, of whom 57 are Lifetime members. \$600 came in from three \$150 Lifetime Memberships which, of course, goes into our Fixed Endowment fund which now stands at \$90,600. But our Interest on that fund may slip below 2% by the end of the year.

As of 18 May we have \$90,600 in our Fixed Endowment, \$12,977 in our checking account, and \$684 in the Book Store.

Dave Hughes
Treasurer

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

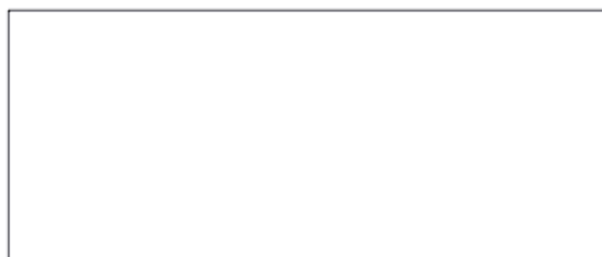
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JUNE

Saturday, June 20
8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

2009 Summer Programs & Events

Annual Arts & Crafts in Bancroft Park -- Local artisans, crafters, musicians, Farmer's Market. Cabin and Museum open.

JULY

Tuesday Nights in July

Annual series of historical programs and events.

July 7, 6:30 til 8:30

Old-Fashioned Ice Cream & Pie Social on History Center patio. Small charge. Bring your family and neighbors.

July 14, 7 p.m.

"Battle at the Pass" illustrated program and book signing by Dr. Ben Benoit

July 21, 7 p.m.

"Soiled Doves of the West" illustrated program by Phil McDonald

July 28, 7 p.m.

"White Acres - past, present and future" illustrated program by Don Ellis, Merrilyn Caduff, and Bill Koerner

Saturday, July 18

Members only tour. Marigreen Pines. Reservations. \$12.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 8

Founder's Day Celebration in Bancroft Park

Wednesday, August 12

Time Capsule Ceremony & Reception

Sunday, August 23

Annual Cemetery Crawl fundraiser at Fairview Cemetery

Friday, August 28

Members only tour. Air Force Academy: Pioneers & Traditions. Reservations.

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