

WEST WOOD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

Volume 24, Number 4

May, 2009

What is History For?

by Mel McFarland

I do a newspaper column now and then, but my main interest is in seeing that places like the Old Colorado City History Center serve a purpose that is of interest to its members. Many of the things I do columns and talk about have a link to the history center. I often get asked what was in a certain spot a year or a hundred years ago. A long time ago in the Westside Pioneer I did a series on how our town looked in the past. This leads to "Where was this and where was that?" Well I do not know every detail of the area, but it is fun to look up information about questions you have. Now and then I get a note or an email about something that turns up because

of something you are looking for. Not all history is a hundred years old! The history center is a place to start looking, and often the answer leads to more questions.

Over the past couple years I have researched gas stations, neighborhood grocery stores even hamburger joints. In the gas station list there were the gas stations where The Bon Ton and Old Colorado City Creamery are now. I have looked at the Old Colorado City, City Hall, which was even Whittier School. There are a bunch of ideas, all of which came from questions to me. Some of these things relate to our area's railroad history, but some go back before that.



The Colorado Avenue scene was quite busy in the early 1960's. There were still furniture, hardware and many other little businesses then.

I have talked about industries, railroad stations and even the red light district. Every now and then something pops up out of nowhere. I have looked up a few significant buildings and houses in the area. One was the Gillette house up behind Uintah Gardens, and another not far from there that had a street car in it. I did one on the Gardner Tents from the TB Sanitariums some time ago. I have talked about stores and businesses along Colorado Avenue and when I do I almost always include the Merri-Lane Restaurant. It was a family favorite. When I talk about the Merri-Lane I remember

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Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
<http://history.oldcolo.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 - spiderwort@pclsys.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 Dlsch	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

Allen County Public Library
 Martha Curry
 Steve Daigle
 Sharon J. Davis
 Betsy Evans
 Norman Garwood
 Mike Graham
 M. B. Gustafson
 Harris Family
 Ed Hershiser
 Roger Magnini
 Ruth Obee
 Robert Shonkwiler
 Linda L. Smith
 Mary Trapp
 Frank Tucker
 Vera Wescott
 Judith Willey
 Donald Yowell

*Have you
 contributed
 to the
 Monument
 for
 Bancroft Park?*

*We need about \$1,700
 to meet our goal.*

*We accept check, cash,
 credit card, and/or
 online donations at
<http://history.oldcolo.com>*

Thank you.

New Acquisitions at the History Center

By Barbara Barbaro

The following are archives and artifacts received in the last few months by the Old Colorado City Historical Society through the generosity and thoughtfulness of many people.

* Several items from the Civil War era, found in Ft. Craig, N.M., including shoulder epaulet, bugle medallion, button, cartridge cases, and lead cartridges, from Ed Overby

* Quilt patches made around the turn of the century, made by the grandmother of OCCHS member Betty Baker, from Betty Baker

* Photos of 1980 ceremony inaugurating the donation of a clock for the Old Colorado City clock Tower, from OCCHS member Dave Hughes

* Two rare, early (1896 & 1889) shipping documents on the Denver & Rio Grande and the Midland Railroad for shipping stone from Red Rock Canyon from Greenlee Sons quarry operation, from OCCHS member Dave Hughes

* Reproductions of maps of Pikes Peak Avenue, from Jim Mason

* Signed copy of the book, "Battle at the Pass", by Benoit, from R. W. Benoit

* Book, "Colorado's Century of Cities", by Fred and Jo Mazzulla, from Wanda Reaves

* Books, "The Man and His Mission", and "Autobiography of J. O. Emrick and Other Writings", from Jimmy Jones

* Gazette Telegraph clipping about Perry Ross, and handwritten biography by Perry Ross, from June Shelton

* Photo of the Santa Fe Depot in Colorado Springs, dated 1917, from Nancy Obenaus

* Abstracts of the title from El Paso Abstract Co. involving various lots of Owen/Love/Quinby, 2nd addition to Colorado Springs, from OCCHS member Tom Hendrix

* Book of Longfellow's "Roses and Lilies", circa 1800 and Saturday Evening Post dated June 2, 1917, from OCCHS member Betty Baker

* Multiple copies of papers and photos of Old Colorado City copied from the Colorado Historical Society, from OCCHS member Martha Lee

* Copy of the Sheldon plat map of Colorado City dated February 17, 1873, from OCCHS member Barbara Barbaro

* Copy of the 1860 manuscript by Sylvester Buzzard of Colorado City, from the Pioneers Museum

* Books: "Crystal Park", "Springs of Colorado", "Nature's Names For Colorado Communities", "Shattered Dreams", "Pikes Peak Pioneers", "The Gold Camp Road",

and "Battle at the Pass", from OCCHS member Dave Hughes

* Tortoise shell hair holder from the Smith family of five girls who lived in Staten Island, N. Y. around 1900 and who were aunts of Liz Geiss, from OCCHS member Liz Geiss

* Oil painting of "Old Town Holy Day" by Jack Ekstrom, from Jack Ekstrom

* Abstract of title for property on Colorado Ave. issued 1872, and Colorado City Ordinances, Nov. 1871 to 1896, from Gene Brent

* Photo of W. A. Love residence, Colorado City, 1890s or early 1900, from Dorothy Boyd

* 1931 calendar from "The Pikes Peak Floral Co.", from Gary Cray

* Sample of barbed wire, from Deanne Hess

* Old photographs of Colorado Springs and Silver Plume, from Arthur Grana

* 60 sheets of music of the Colorado Midland Band, purchased by OCCHS

* Photo of Pilot Knob, Manitou, dated between 1945 and 1949, from Don Jones

* Original excerpt from Harpers Weekly dated May 7, 1859, original "The Graphic" dated June 20, 1874, letter dated April 1, 1889, from Guillermo Alvarado

* Black quartz rock, from Zoe and Ryan Jones

* Books, "Redevelopment Guidelines for Old Colorado City", "Design Plan for Downtown Manitou Springs, CO",

"The Great Pikes Peak Gold Rush", "Jeep Trails to Colorado Ghost Towns", "In Red Rock Canyon Land", and "Massacre", from Eloise Wynne

* Framed photograph of Colorado City "ambassador" Edna Francisco Pooler, donor unknown

* Book, "Northend Historic Design Guidelines" and newsletters to "Northend" residents, donor unknown

* Book, "City of Manitou Springs Residential Design Guidelines Handbook", donor unknown

* Copies of surveys, deed transfers and annexation papers of Crystal Hills development to Manitou Springs dated Dec. 17, 1969, donor unknown

* Books, "Colorado - A History", and "Colorado Crazy Quilt", donor unknown

* Book, "Colorado College: The First Century", donor unknown

* Copies of deed/trust real estate transfers dated June 18, 1907, including transfer of Palmer Park from Gen. Palmer to the city of Colorado Springs, donor unknown

History continued from page 1

Merle Crocker's collection of old rifles which hung on the knotty pine walls. There was a long mural on one wall with an idyllic mountain scene. Up front in the window there was an organ which several nights a week had a live organist. There was even in the 50's a radio program live from the Merri-Lane. Speaking of eating, how about the Fireside up near 33rd Street or Cy's Drive In on Colorado one of the subjects when I did hamburger places.

As I often point out, someday something will replace the things we think of as every day, and solidly permanent. The drug store soda fountain, Colorado Avenue's saloons, the railroad yards and gold mills, the sound of a school bell, a steam locomotive, or the chug of a tractor, are these things you remember. Will today's children look back fondly on DVD's, ipods, game boys, Big Mac's, cheese filled pizza crusts, and things like that? I try to not make predictions, but I would put money on some of these things. Right now they surely do not seem like things that will be historic or even nostalgic, but then again who would expect the golden arches to come back. There are a dozen things that went away and came back. I bet you can come up with things you would like to see again, and another list of things you would hope would never come back, too! Just walk into an antique shop and have a look at some of the things they have for sale. I regularly do, and almost always hear someone say, "I used to play with those! If I had only saved one.

Can you remember when there were only three radio stations? Or only two local television stations? In the 1960's those numbers grew. The first TV I saw was a Denver station on a very snowy screen up where the Air Force Academy now sits! KRDO had a well known local radio announcer, Wes Bradley. He was their first TV newsman when he hosted an evening show from their bare studio, and did a series of how to build a TV set. KKTU was on south Tejon in the old street car barn, but it made a fair studio.

The subject of dairies has come up. Names like Carlson-Frink, I-X-L far overshadowed names like Cox and Holland, but do you remember Scotland Pride? Meadow Gold had

been Mowrey's, and had a store on Cashe la Poudre at Colorado College and had real ice cream. J's Drive In near there used the ice cream in their milk shakes. There was quite a youth attachment to J's. Here are just a few more names to stir up the memories; Pixie Land Golf, The Miracle House, Garden of the Gods Stables, Stonewall Cottages, George's Pet Supply, Colorado Springs Broom Manufacturing Company, Croff's Paint Store, as well as the well known Don Bates Insurance, Schoch's Hardware and Roger's Bar! I wonder how this side of town might have looked if the railroad had kept running.

All of these subjects may not be of interest to you, but I bet at least one item is of interest to you! My favorite subject has been well known for a long time, the Midland. I know that Colorado City has a broad history and the members of the historical society, like you, will be interested in some of these items well into the future.

WEB SITE UNVEILED

At the May 8th Annual Society Meeting, the program after the business is conducted will consist of a live demonstration by Dave Hughes of all the features of our new and powerful web site - including the history in text and photographs, interactive moderated discussion forums, ability of users to upload their own historical offerings, a data base of all 128 past West Word newsletters, audio and video interviews of old timers, and live displays of all our artifacts. And the ability to buy any of our Books online, sign up as a new member, or pay your renewal fees, donate to the Society, or buy discount tickets to our events online. It will be a 30 minute tour de force.

EDITORIAL:**A remarkable legacy**

This year we are honoring the legacy of the pioneers who founded Colorado City 150 years ago and of the men and women who lived, worked, and visited here over the following years.

This month's events at the History Center include two book signings by authors who have created books about our region's history. Looking back over the years, the books written by our members, the historic programs which the History Center has hosted, and, yes, the articles published in West Word are truly a remarkable legacy of our own society. The varied viewpoints and interests of our authors, researchers, and speakers have given us a rich array of perspectives on the events which shaped Colorado City and our region.

With our new website, the entire collection of West Word newsletters will be available to our members online, making this remarkable legacy more available than ever.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to create this remarkable legacy for all of us.

Don Ellis

CLEANING CLOSETS?

Men's and women's Victorian and early 1900s period clothing is needed to add to the "costume closet" for members to borrow for special events.

**Please donate any size of
Jackets - Vests - Coats - Hats
Dresses - Blouses - Skirts**

**Accessories, including
Gloves, Purses, Umbrellas, Men's
Ties**

"Western" and Pioneer Styles

Pancake Breakfast
at

Deb's Coffee House
The Historic Templeton House
(on the patio)
25th & Pikes Peak

Sunday, May 24th
That's Rip Roarin' Territory Days

8:30 am to 11:30 am

A Fundraiser for
Our Historical Society!

Bring Your Family
or Friends!

At the History Center

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 - 7:00 PM

**John Powell, El Paso County Forestry and
Noxious Weed Specialist, will present**

Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds are non-native plants which are aggressive and spread rapidly. Since they are not natives, noxious weeds lack the natural biological controls which keep native ecosystems in balance. More than just a nuisance, noxious weeds threaten valuable wildlife habitats and ecosystem integrity. Because of their threat to natural resources and because noxious weeds cause economic hardship to farmers and ranchers, Colorado has enacted the Colorado Noxious Weed Act which facilitates management of noxious weeds and establishes a list of noxious weeds which threaten Colorado.

Sponsored by:
Friends of Red Rock Canyon

2009 HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC. AWARD HONORS DAVE HUGHES

The Dana Crawford Awards Dinner is Colorado's largest statewide preservation awards assembly, honoring individuals and organizations which have made a significant contribution toward preserving Colorado's built history. The evening's namesake is Dana Crawford, a pioneer in saving historic buildings that were viewed as derelict eyesores and in proving that their restoration makes economic sense.

Each year since 1988, Colorado honors the efforts of individuals, projects, and organizations that have made exemplary contributions to the saving of Colorado's built heritage recognizing accomplishments in the areas of preservation, rehabilitation, promotion, philanthropy and leadership.

The 2009 recipients for excellence in historic preservation are the Central City Opera Association, Dr. Charles Branigan (Denver), Manzanola Train Depot project, the Union Pacific Railroad (Grant County), and our own, Dave Hughes from OCCHS! Needless to say, we are certainly aware of the many ways Dave has and is still contributing to the history and continuing preservation of Old Colorado City and the Westside. Way to go, Dave!

This year's dinner will be held Thursday, May 21, 2009 at the Sheraton Denver Hotel. For further information, call (303) 893-4260 or www.ColoradoPreservation.org

If anyone would like to carpool to attend this dinner, please contact the History Center or Joanne Karlson. This event is a major fundraiser for their organization.

Col. (Ret) David R Hughes Biography

David Hughes, 81, is a 3d generation Colorado native who graduated from West Point in 1950. He served as a highly decorated Infantry officer in both the Korean and Vietnam wars, taught at West Point, rose to be a politico-military advisor to the Secretary of Defense. He retired in Colorado Springs in 1973

Over the past 36 years he has been involved in local civic affairs as well as running his own advanced telecommunications business which took him from the Rain Forests of Puerto Rico to the slopes of Mount Everest. He has been honored as an Internet Pioneer. He led the successful historic revitalization of Old Colorado City and the Westside of Colorado Springs starting in 1976 to prevent it being destroyed by Urban Renewal.

In 2004 he received a very high honor from his Alma Mater, being designated a Distinguished West Point Graduate.



From the President's Desk-

While preparing this year's taxes, I learned an amazing fact from the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics. Did you know that the recently revised estimated "value" of volunteer time is now \$20.08 per hour? OCCHS really has some very "expensive" volunteers when you look at our yearly budget! How much have you contributed (or "earned") as a volunteer in 2008? And already in 2009!! Keep in mind that this dollar amount is calculated to include benefits such as insurance, vacation, etc. When you talk to people from other countries, many do not understand the concept of volunteerism. Each of you deserves a pat on the back! Yes, our History Center volunteers are most valuable!

However, we still need some extra help for May and a busy summer. A day or an occasional few hours will be greatly appreciated. Call the History Center if you can help and leave a message for Bev or Sharon. Specific areas where extra help is needed are events, walking tours, building and grounds maintenance, food for bake sales, and the Bookstore.

The next issue of WestWord will be a combined June - July issue. Your August issue will arrive the end of July with updated information about our Founders' Day celebration, dedication of the monument in Bancroft Park, and the Cemetery Crawl as well as a preview of fall events.

Hope to see you May 8th for the social hour, our annual business meeting and Dave's media presentation. Bring your friends to learn how OCCHS is on the "cutting edge" of museum technology. Then you can tell your grandchildren how "cool" the History Center is becoming! May is a busy month. Come and enjoy!

Regards,

~Joanne Karlson

Treasurer's Report April, 2009

Our fund raising for the Sesquicentennial Monument is moving along. With some donors taking advantage of being able to donate by secure credit card through our new Society web site, as of this writing Friday, April 17th, we have collected \$5,767 from 60 donors. Together with the \$5,000 grant we were awarded by the Ackerman fund, we have \$10,767 assured. We still have \$733 to go to reach the minimum Wilhelm Monuments contract cost of \$11,500, but \$1,733 to go to the \$12,500 Wilhelm estimates we need to insure we also cover the expected added engraving caused by changes the city requested we make to the design. Any surplus we will first use to improve the dull concrete slab beneath the monument itself and then for other Sesquicentennial Celebration expenses. But all donors will be recognized in our Time Capsule.

We expended \$1,200 to design and print 9,000 copies of our two page historic 'Colorado City Journal' which was enclosed in 7,800 Westside Story mailed newsletters, 300 West Word mailed society newsletter, and copies have been handed out at center and outside presentations. It has been very well received. A one large page variation of it will be included at no cost to our Society in 55,000 Hub inserts of the Gazette for May 21st, three days before Territory Days.

We are facing higher costs for our fund raising events. We had to pay \$515 for a Special Events Insurance Policy for two of our events which includes one million dollar co-insurance for the city.

We now have \$8,726 in our ready reserves, \$90,450 in our fixed Endowment, \$7,727 in our checking account and \$1,297 in our Book and Gift Store account. Costs are up, earned interest is low, and revenue is down.

Dave Hughes
Treasurer

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

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MAY 2009 Sesquicentennial Programs & Events

Celebrating 150 Years of Early El Paso County and Old Colorado City History, 1859 to 2009

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|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday, May 2
3 to 5 p.m. | "<u>Historic Photos of Colorado Springs</u>" Remarks and book with OCCHS member and author, reception Sharon Swint. Books available for purchase. |
| Friday, May 8
10 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
11 a.m. | Light refreshments and social time honoring past Board members. <u>Annual Business Meeting and Elections.</u> <i>Note change of time</i>
<u>Presentation:</u> Announce & Demonstrate the <u>New OCCHS Website and Technology.</u> Public welcome. |
| Saturday, May 16
2 p.m. | <u>"The Shamrock Ranch: its history and connections to the Husted and Allen families and Colorado City"</u> , Illustrated program by author, David Wismer, with a book signing of his recent publication, available for purchase. |
| May 23, 24, 25 | <u>Annual Territory Days Event.</u> Bake sale. Garvin Cabin & Museum open. |
| May 24
8 to 11 a.m. | <u>Pancake Breakfast,</u> OCCHS fundraiser at Deb's Coffee House, 2 S. 25th St |

Programs are free and open to the public, however donations are welcome.

Doors will be open by 10:15 a.m. for the Friday morning programs.

Come early for coffee and to visit the Museum exhibits or browse the Bookstore.

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