

## Fremont Forest Experiment Station (The Fremont Experimental Forest)

by Eric Swab

On September 3, 1909 Carlos G. Bates and 3 co-workers hauled a water logged 14 foot by 14 foot tent and equipment from the top of the Manitou Incline Railway one mile west to the location on the south side of Mt. Manitou, where he would carry out experiments aimed at restoring the forests of the Central Rocky Mountains. Before the end of that year they would build a tar paper shack that would serve as laboratory and living quarters, a concrete dam to supply water to the station, erect a flag pole and three weather station towers.

The forests of the Rocky Mountains, as well those around the country had been devastated by wild fires, and indiscriminant harvesting of timber for construction, mining and

railroading. In 1908 the new U. S Forest Service began establishing experiment stations to develop the science that would support reforestation. Fremont was the 2nd station in the nation.

Mr. Bates' experiments went beyond simply planting trees on the bare mountain sides; he set out to answer basic questions that had been puzzling foresters all over the world. "How many seeds do trees produce; what becomes of them; why do so many seedlings die? Why is it that the seedlings of one species survive on one slope, and the seedlings of a different species on another slope?" Answering these questions required comparing one species with another in various ways, which in turn required gathering seeds from various parts of the country and the world. Bates also explored cross germination of different species to improve their characteristics. He pioneered methods of soil stabilization to reduce erosion.

Since tracking meteorological data was one of the key elements of understanding the influence of weather on forest health, the Weather Bureau was a partner in this effort. Eventually 14 weather towers were built at various locations on Pikes Peak. The staff recorded wind speed and direction, air temperature,



*Continued page 4*

**Old Colorado City Historical Society**

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

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Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

or Don Ellis - [splderwort@pcsys.net](mailto: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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**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

Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Best  
 Betty Jo Cardona  
 Sallie & Welling Clark  
 Dawn Hawkins  
 Linda Kaska  
 Rob & Sarah Martinez  
 Sandra Moncada  
 Ann Parker  
 Don & Betty Peterson  
 Paul & Martha Schnake  
 Steve Shepard  
 Lola Stone & Carolyn Bauder  
 John Stoodly  
 Mary Ellyn Taylor

## Victorian Buckram Frame Hat Making Workshop

*Build Your Own Victorian/Edwardian Hat!*

Saturday, September 12, 2009

At the History Center

9:00 - 4:00-ish

Cost \$48.00

Every person will build a women's or men's buckram frame Victorian hat - one of 14 different Denise Nadine pattern styles.

Basic sewing skills required.

The Instructor is Denise Winter. Denise has been making her own hats for many years and has a line of hat making kits and patterns.

Visit [www.denisenadinedesign.com](http://www.denisenadinedesign.com) to view hat styles and select your design.

Advance reservations required by September 1st. Call Jo Cervone, 266-9096, for more details.

*~Denise will also be donating an original beautifully decorated hat for our Annual Banquet Silent Auction in October~*

# Volunteer Spotlight – meet Martha Lee

By Barbara Barbaro

As I sat at the table interviewing Martha for this article, she scanned through a book on railroads, searching for information relative to an artifact she's currently in the process of cataloging. Working in the Artifacts section of the Collections department is where Martha feels most comfortable. "My favorite task is researching information on unidentified artifacts. I find it very satisfying to find information on an item that's been donated to the History Center with little or no background information," she says in a satisfying tone. In addition to logging in, cataloging, and researching artifacts, she also helps set up the many displays within the History Center's museum.

Born in Illinois and raised in both Oklahoma and Texas, Martha and her family moved to Colorado when her dad, who worked in the oil fields, was given an assignment in Colorado. She eventually graduated with a BA from Southern Methodist University in Dallas and received her MA in counseling from the Chapman University branch in Colorado Springs. After teaching math in Denver for six years she took a 12 year hiatus to raise her children, and then returned to teaching in Colorado

Spring. In total, she spent 22 years as a counselor and a middle school math teacher.

Martha maintains a full plate of hobbies and activities in addition to volunteering once a week at the History Center. Her main enjoyment comes from spending quality time with her grandchildren who live in Colorado Springs and Loveland, Colorado. In addition, she loves to travel and since retiring in 2004, she's visited Italy, Spain, Australia, and New Zealand with a traveling group. She recently joined a quilting group at Ruth's Stitchery in Colorado Springs, and is a member of the AAUW (American Association of University Women). She especially likes the Southwestern Studies group within the AAUW, and so far has traveled with them to the Southwest, the four corners, the Texas panhandle, and the Western Slope.

Martha first heard about the Old Colorado City Historical Society when she was a counselor and had her eyes set on doing volunteer work from the moment the Historical Society purchased the Baptist Church in which the history center now resides. Once retired, Martha headed for the history center to begin working as a volunteer. She first worked in the bookstore, and then eventually found her calling working downstairs with the artifacts.

When asked why she, like so many others, is interested in the history of Old Colorado City, she quickly responded, "Old Colorado City is the embodiment of a typical western town. It's the city that never grew up, because it ceased to be before ever having that chance." She's fascinated with the everyday life back in Colorado City's heyday, especially with the skills and talents held by the women in those days. Had she lived in those days, Martha says she would have been a seamstress, which is no surprise, considering the number of hours she spends sewing, embroidering, and quilting. "Women were strong (back then), they were seamstresses, tailors, and haberdashers. A woman was a source of envy back then if she had her own sewing machine. It was a romantic time, but pretty harsh, too," Martha explains. "I think of those pioneers coming out west with their looms and blacksmith metal rods and other items attached to their wagons, looking for that ideal place to settle down."

Martha's vast experience and low-key temperament make her a real asset to the Collections team. We just hope that she plans to stay around for years to come.



*Forest continued from page 1*

ground temperature, relative humidity, rainfall, snow depth, and sunshine.

From this simple one tent beginning the station soon grew into a campus of 4 dwellings, a barn, a laboratory, green house, boiler house, seed house, root-cellar/woodshed and a fire house. These were modern frame structures with concrete foundations. By 1919 the Station had electricity, telephone service and a sewer system. The boiler house supplied hot water for heating the green house and the dwellings. All the materials for construction and supplies for living and conducting experiments were carried up the Manitou Incline and hauled to the station by mule and later by horse and wagon.

Once electricity was brought to the station (1919), a "drag saw" was installed in a shed next to boiler house. This modern convenience greatly reduced the labor of cutting up the timber felled to make way for the experimental plantings. All the trees cut were used for fuel, fence posts or power poles.

Carlos G. Bates graduated from the school of Forestry at the University of Nebraska in 1907. One of Bates' classmates was Gustaf A. Pearson who was picked to be the Director of the first experiment station near Flagstaff, Arizona. They were both students of Dr. Frederick E. Clements, the renowned ecologist who established the Alpine Laboratory on the south shoulder of Pikes Peak. Dr. Clements helped Bates pick the site for the station.

In the 2 years after graduation Bates worked for the Forest Service as a forest assistant reporting to the new Office of Silvics in Washington D.C. with an annual salary of \$1,000. In February 1909 he was placed in charge of silvics for the Rocky Mountain region and transferred to Denver in March. Bates was to establish an experiment station, which he did on September 3rd of the same year, shortly before his 24th birthday. He managed his experiments throughout the Rockies from an office in Denver until 1920, when he moved to Colorado Springs.

During his 30 plus years with the Forest Service, Bates developed his talents as a true scientist. "Where others excelled in one field, Bates distinguished himself in three: shelter

belt forestry, silvics, and watershed management." Bates was an 'artisan of no mean ability,' which proved valuable in building research facilities isolated from skilled manpower pools. He eventually constructed much of the apparatus used in investigations." One example of his inventiveness was an evaporimeter for which he received a patent in 1920. This device was designed to more accurately simulate the evaporation of moisture from leaves than previous devices. He was also a prolific writer having over 60 papers published in the journals in his field.

Bates was transferred to the Forest Products Laboratory in 1927 and shortly after to the Lake States Experiment Station in Minnesota. There he was responsible for two important projects, shelter belt planting and flood control until his death in 1949.

He was replaced at the Fremont Station by his assistant, Jacob Roeser, Jr., a 1916 graduate of the School of Forestry at Colorado College. Roeser continued the work of the station until 1935 when it was closed. At 500 acres the station was considered too small and access was inconvenient as compared with the newly formed Manitou Experimental Forest.

The silvicultural experiments conducted at Fremont contributed to the collective knowledge of how best to manage our forests. Some of these results are:

- Planting nursery stock was more successful than planting seeds in reforestation.
- Greater success rates are obtained by gathering seeds close to the reforestation area.
- Seedlings grown within the shelter of mature trees are more successful.

While these conclusions may seem obvious today, they were not supported by science in the early 20th century.

In 1945 the Forest Service issued a contract to have the buildings torn down and hauled off the mountain. This agreement included removing the concrete foundations and leaving the site in natural condition. Fortunately for history the foundations are still there. Also remaining are four dump sites which contain evidence of the work that was performed there.

## Notes from the Author

I have always loved the outdoors and have hiked off and on since I was a kid. When I retired over 5 years ago as a career as a self-employed computer programmer, I began hiking 2 to 3 times a week all year round. While hiking that much, you begin to see things that you had missed before. One of those discoveries was a very large "can dump" in the French Creek drainage on Pikes Peak. It contained objects that one does not see in a normal miner's or logger's can dump. It did not take long to make the connection between that can dump and the Fremont Experimental Forest. In the course of researching the history of the Fremont, I visited the PSINF Archeologist in Pueblo. He was interested in what I had done and we signed a volunteer agreement to continue the research.

Photographs for the exhibit have come from the National Archives in Denver and Maryland, the PSINF, the Pikes Peak Public Library, and Sandra Martin, the daughter of the author of a book, "A History of the Fremont Forest Experiment Station". The artifacts that will be exhibited have been recovered from three can dumps at the Fremont Experimental Forest, by permission of the PSINF. After the exhibit, they will be preserved in a Forest Service vault at the Monument Nursery.

Major funding for this exhibit has come from the Pike San Isabel National Forest (PSINF). Friends of the Peak is paying for mailing of flyers to other museums and friends announcing the exhibit opening - an OCCHS open house event scheduled for Friday, September 4, from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring your neighbors and friends to see this timely exhibit - an opportunity to learn about reforestation efforts and conservation over one hundred years ago!

## OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

### *"An Evening in the Wild West"*



DATE: Thursday, October 1, 2009

TIME: 6:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

GHOST TOWN WILD WEST MUSEUM

Hwy. 24 and 21st Street

Catered by Front Range Barbeque

#### MENU:

- Beef brisket
- Pulled pork
- Baked beans with bacon
- Cucumber, tomato, onion salad with vinaigrette
- Buns and mini corn muffins
- Home-style macaroni and cheese
- Choice of sauces
- Dessert
- Coffee and tea
- BYOW—Bring Your Own Wine (if you wish)

COST: \$19 for members  
\$24 for non-members

#### RESERVATIONS\*:

By phone-636-1225 (OCCHC)—credit card only  
In person—OCCHC—cash, credit card or check

SPEAKER: Merrell Folsom (OCCHS member)

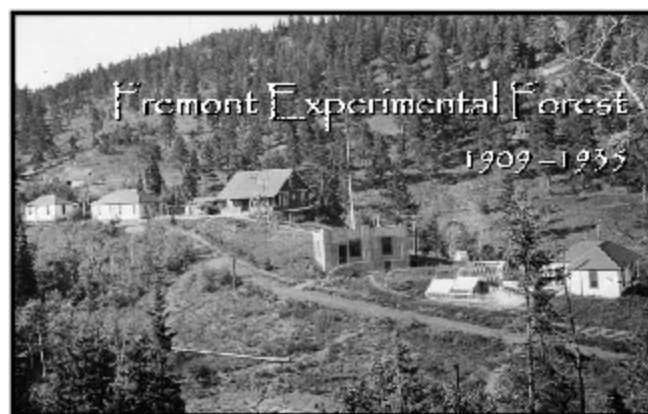
*"A Comparison of Two American Frontier Heroes: Abe Lincoln and Kit Carson"*

#### CASUAL DRESS

*Join your fellow OCCHS members for an evening of fun, touring the Ghost Town, good food, silent auction and kicking up your heels Old Colorado City style—the wild side of Colorado Springs!!*

\*Space is limited so get your reservations in early. The deadline is Saturday, September 26, 2009.





## What was the Fremont Station?

Toward the end of the 1890's there was growing concern on the part of the timber industry and state and federal governments that the resources of the nation's forests would not support the rapid pace of growth in the United States. Our forests were being devastated by wild fire, indiscriminate logging for the railroads, the realization that reforestation needed the attention and support of government and industry. Many projects were begun across the nation, but very little was understood about the science that might support reforestation.

This began to change in 1908 when the brand new U. S. Forest Service began to establish forest experiment stations across the western United States. The second of these, the Fremont Forest Experiment Station, was started on the south slope of Mt. Manitou, near Manitou Springs, CO. This station, under the direction of Carlos G. Bates, began the silvicultural experiments that helped determine how best to manage our forests.

Old Colorado City Historical Society  
will host an exhibit of  
historic photographs and artifacts  
from the station:

August 18th through October 30th, 2009.

Open House: Sept. 4th from 5 to 8:00 P.M.

Gallery Talk: Sept. 11 at 11:00 AM.

Museum hours: Tuesday through Saturday  
11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Phone: (719) 636-1225

Website: <http://history.oldcolo.com>

Exhibit sponsors: U.S. Forest Service,  
Old Colorado City Historical Society,  
and Friends of the Peak

## From the President's Desk~

OCCHS members and volunteers should be very proud of the varied events during the Sesquicentennial Founders' Day celebrations! We are tired, but elated that so many people attended our events and had a good time. And, the weather was perfect all weekend! For those members who didn't attend, here are a few additional comments to Dave Hughes' article.

About 90 people attended our first art show and sale featuring the artistry of member, Jack Ekstrom, on Friday evening, August 7th. We thank Jack for his generous donation of a large portion of his sales!

Also on Friday night, the 1862 Union Army Dodd's Company C was setting up their encampment on one side of Bancroft Park, much to the curiosity of on-lookers.

Bright and early Saturday morning, crafters were setting up their booths and Jo Cervone and her helpers were getting the sound equipment and chairs in place for the rest of the day. Vice Mayor Larry Small accepted the monument on behalf of the City along with Council members, Bernie Herpin (OCCHS member), Jan Martin and Randy Purvis. As President, I stated the following.

"In commemoration of the Sesquicentennial Year (1859-2009) of the founding of Colorado City, the members of the Old Colorado City Historical Society dedicate this Rocky Mountain rose granite monument as a lasting tribute to the memory of the unique and varied 150 year history of Colorado City, the core of a vibrant Westside neighborhood.

To keep this history alive and not forgotten, we donate this monument on behalf of all "Westiders" as a gift to the citizens of the City of Colorado Springs. May this community continue to grow in its appreciation of Colorado City's heritage and honor the contributions of its individuals".

The time capsule and a variety of messages, books, and memorabilia were buried on the History Center Memorial Patio on Wednesday evening. A memorial brick honoring Ira Current was set into the patio by his sisters (and OCCHS members) Maloa Read and Irma Hilfers and Irene's daughter, Kathe, who were present. What a fitting way to end these busy days as we dedicate these mementos to future generations!

We thank the generosity and donations of money and services from over 75 members and friends for the monument; the \$5000 grant from the Ackerman Foundation; Dick Wilhelm of Wilhelm Monument Co.; Clarence Gianarelli of Ideal-Concrete Inc. who created the monument base and a "new" area surrounding the monument; Ben Skyler of A-1 Crane Company

who deftly avoided trees setting the monument in place; and John Jackson (OCCHS member), the monument artist who patiently worked through one revision after another.

PLUS special thanks to the Founder's Day organizers, volunteers, and donors:

Jo Cervone, Dave Hughes, Betty Baker, Barbara Barbaro, Leslie Bergstrom, Janice Billingsley, Art Crawford, Janice deChadenedes, Bev Dirsch, Muriel Dunkley, Pat Ebersole, Don Ellis, Jack Ekstrom, Pat Fejedelhem, Diana Hughes, David Hughes, Jr., John Jackson, Werner Karlson, Jay Lowery, Sarah Martinez, Dave Murray, Curt Neeley, Paul Shepard, Sharon Swint, Gerry Travers Dorothy Vidmar, Vera Westcott, Marty Walker, Judy Willey, Eloise Wynne. Pikes Peak National Bank, Ed Nuccio and the New Horizons Concert Band, Dodd's Company C from Canon City, local Victorian Society Dancers, Rocky Mt. Gunslingers, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Westside Pioneer, Portrait Labs, Inc. and PPLD-OCC Carnegie Library.

We thank you all! Well done!

*Joanne Karlson*

## Treasurer's Report August, 2009

With Founder's Day - the peak of our Sesquicentennial events past - we can now project how the rest of 2009 will look, financially.

First, our Monument. To this date August 15th, we have received \$12,795 from over 75 member contributions toward the \$11,500 Monument cost. Since that is \$1,295 over our cost we offered to those who sent \$150 or more, the choice of whether those funds would go into our general account, or become a 'Life Member.' Two members opted for that choice, so, deducting that \$300, we then had \$995 available to pay other costs related to our Sesquicentennial events. With the City of Colorado Springs cutting back on its Park budgets, this year we were charged this year \$500 more than last year for use of Bancroft Park.

For \$600 - a \$100 discount - Kasten Accounting completed our 2008 Federal and State Tax returns. Since there is now a new requirement for us to file an annual state "Charitable Organization" financial report, we use the authoritative numbers Kasten records derived from every deposit, check, and transaction from both our General Account, Endowment Account, and Book and Gift Store Account to make that report. It shows that at the end of 2008 our assets, with no liabilities, equaled \$363,572. (Which included standard depreciation on our building) However a reappraisal in 2009 of the real value of our History Center building for our insurance purposes shows it to be worth at least

\$486,000 with contents (not including value of our collections) of \$30,000. So your History Society insured assets are worth over half a million dollars!

Because of the generosity of both the 72 piece New Horizons Band and the Victorian Dancers performing for nothing on Founder's Day and the ample free publicity we got from KROC and KCME radio, the Westside Pioneer, and the Gazette Telegraph, including history displays in the Hub, we made a net profit from the 1,000 or more attendees and craft vendors of \$2,225.

We got a windfall from the Art and Print Show Sales in our Center of Jack Ekstrom's work that dates back to 1976, when Old Colorado City first emerged as a visually historic part of town. He sold \$1,872 worth on the evening of August 7th, and generously offered us 60% of that, or \$1,123. He also drafted up, free, several of our advertising posters for Founders Day and the Cemetery Crawl. Portrait Labs printed up several at no cost. We even were able, during Founders Day, to let two young westside boys hawk like newsboys, for a \$1 donation (no sales tax) reprint copies of the large wonderful Ekstrom Caricature Map History of Colorado City, \$2 for copies of my original 1977 short Colo City 1977 history, and \$3 for the Midland March CDs. They earned us \$110. We still have about 75 remaining in the Center (\$1) and 20 Midland March CD (\$3) which can be picked up by putting the cash into our donation box.

Because the Book Store account includes that Art and Print sale, we may receive, from Betsy's Book Store account, \$3,000 this December, rather than \$2,000 which was normal in the past. The work that Rebecca Clark has done under contract digitizing the Book Store readying it for being taken over by Suzanne Schorsch after Betsy asked to be relieved of her load, cost \$1,000. The funds to pay her came out of the last of the Shirley Bond's Digitization grant.

Still, by the end of the year, with us only earning \$1,500 interest from our savings all year vice the \$5,000 we got just 2 years ago when interest rates were higher, we will probably end the year with about a \$1000 loss (against our January projected break-even budget). We are still in a rather sick economy. But we still have \$50,000 in our 5.75% Bond, \$50,798 in our 1.8% savings account, (\$91,050 of which is our Fixed Endowment - \$8,414 of which is earned interest the Board may use), \$7,824 in our cash account, \$3,993 in our Bookstore Account with three more events - the Cemetery Crawl, Annual Dinner and Bed and Breakfast Tours to go - which if we hustle with publicity, our members participate, and we promote our online and off Bookstore for Christmas gifts, we could earn \$2,500 more. We could end the year with \$115,000 in liquid assets and no liabilities.

*Dave Hughes, Treasurer*

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

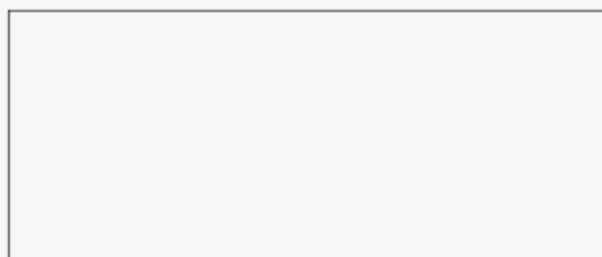
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## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

*Celebrating 160 Years of Colorado City History (1849-2009)*

**Friday, Sept. 4**      **Open House featuring new exhibit, "The Fremont Station"**  
5 to 8 P.M.      co-sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, OCCHS, and Friends of  
the Peak. Research and conservation of our forests in early 1900s.

**Friday, Sept 11**      **Program: "What Was the Fremont Station?", an illustrated**  
11 AM      talk by member, Eric Swab

*In 1849 the Department of the Interior was established and given the responsibility of protecting the government forests against unauthorized harvesting of trees by the private timber industry. In 1862 the Department of Agriculture was established, with a Division of Forestry leading to controversy and interdepartmental conflict. Swab's program will give insights into past politics and more recent policies.*

**Saturday, Sept 12**      **Hat Making Workshop,**  
9 to 4 P.M.      call History Center for information and reservations

**Fri./Sat., Sept 25/26**      **Members only tour of Fort Union and Glorieta Pass, N.M.**  
Call History Center or Phil McDonald for information.

**Thurs., Oct 1**      **Annual Members Dinner** (information in this newsletter)

*NEW Museum Hours: Tues. thru Sat., 11 - 4 Free Admission.*



# A GRAND FOUNDERS DAY

by Dave Hughes

Well, it was a grand Old Colorado City Sesquicentennial Founder's Day. August 8, 2009 will be remembered for a long time. Both in the memories of those who attended the very large Bancroft Park event, and in countless digital camera and video camcorder images, and those who volunteered to make the day memorable. The weather was perfect.

The day started early with a packed Farmer's Market next to the park leading early risers who had never visited the one on the westside to comment that this was a REAL Farmer's Market.

Then to the surprise of all, there was a complete military encampment already established with white tents, including the very tall Civil War Sibley Tent. Visitors were able to see, not only the tented street, and question the blue coated uniformed Union soldiers from Captain Dodd's Independent Company from Canon City (which was the first Colorado Territorial force to oppose the attempted Confederate invasion of Colorado) but also to examine and handle authentic actual, as well as replica, 1842 'sixty nine' caliber Rifles - whose 'buck and ball' shots



stopped the first - and last - Texan Lancer Charges in far southern New Mexico in March 1862.

Then the growing crowd was entertained by the lively costumed Victorian Dancers whirling around below the Bandshell in an authentic demonstration of dances from 100 years ago to recorded music on the 1850s.

The crowd was able to circulate among the many tables by crafters and photographers, and buy books from the Society's bookstore across the street - which enticed many to go through the History Center Museum as well as the events in the Park. Many happily pulled out \$1 dollar bills to 'donate' to the Society when two young westsider boys offered them the wonderful Caricature Map of Colorado City's lively History



originally drawn by Jack Ekstrom in 1977 just as Old Colorado City was reviving after years of blight.

Then at noon came the promised musical treat that many came from far away to hear. Both KRCC and KCME Radio had announced the event and played excerpts in advance which helped turn out the large crowd to hear the Real Thing live.

First there was a wonderful half hour band concert - from the 'Armed Forces - Proud of America' medley ending with everybody standing at the Star Spangled Banner, and then 1940's 'In the Mood' - all reminiscent of the turn of the century open air Park Concerts long before recorded music or radio brought music to the masses but without the ambience of live performances.



Then came the first public playing in 100 years of the famed "Colorado Midland Band March" by the 72 piece New Horizons Band all of whose players are over 40 conducted by indefatigable Ed Nuccio. The lively March was written in 1899 by Edward Kloepper just for Colorado City's popular Midland Railroad's Union Band. That music was lost for half a century until we found it out of state just a few months ago. The lively and spirited rendition by the band was hugely enjoyed and applauded.

Even the dowdy Gazette Telegraph newspaper got into the act. Along with the Gazette's HUB staff - Tim Bergsten and Travis Duncan - the GT had covered the coming event in a full front page Newspaper spread. Even the Freshink staff, recorded the music and put it on their Web site for everyone to hear! They even

beat out the television and radio stations! Music by newspaper?!

Each Musician was rewarded with CDs of that March produced by Mike Kimbrell, who recorded it at their last indoor rehearsal.

Then at 12:30 came the Sesquicentennial highlight of Founder's Day - unveiling the gift to the City by the Old Colorado City Historical Society on behalf of all Westsiders. The stunning 6-foot-high Rocky Mountain Rose Granite Monument right beside Garvin's 1859 Cabin. First Joanne Karlson, President of our Historical Society called forth to the Band's public address podium Larry Small Colorado Springs Vice Mayor - representing the City - and no less than three other Council Members - Bernie Herpin, Randy Purvis, and Jan Martin. They stood by while Joanne thanked all the representatives from El Pomar, and the Ackerman Fund which partly funded the Monument, the City Parks staff and Advisory Board members attending, and then the list of wonderful donors to the

Monument Project - 76 dollar contributors to the \$11,500 cost the of the Monument - crafted by Wilhelm Monuments at a bargain price for the

Society by Dick Wilhelm. Also Clarence Gianarelli of Ideal Concrete whose family business donated \$25,000 worth of decorative base and surrounding flagstone area, and A-1 Crane who offered gratis their \$140 an hour huge crane that it took to lift the ton-heavy monument pieces from the street level and deliver it all the 75 feet through the trees to the heart of the park. All donated services and funds.

Not a nickel of government money.

Joanne was even able to recognize two families in the crowd who traveled all the way from Idaho and Indiana to attend Founder's Day because they are direct descendents of both 1864 Judge Stone and 1900 Jacob Schmidt Beer Hall baron of Colorado City long before the town was dissolved and annexed into Colorado Springs.

Then after remarks by Larry Small praising, not only the Historical Society whose gift to the city he accepted, and praising those who carried off the project, but also historically accurately summarized the lively Old Town history and the long years of the friendly and active Westside Community.

Then the shroud from the stunning monument was pulled off, revealing its 8 engraved sketches and

brightly readable textual panels, portraying 150 years of Colorado City history. All was revealed to applause and flashbulbs galore.

Finally, the Rocky Mountain Gunslingers who had set up their jail and street front on the other side of the park from the Encampment reenacted at 2p.m. the 1860 shooting of Pat Devlin by Jim Laughlin over a dispute, in Colorado City and the conduct of the Trial for murder of Jim Laughlin of Pat Devlin, by the El Paso Claim Club's president Doc Garvin. And just as it was in 1860, the 'people' standing by the shooting were declared the jury and voted to acquit Jim Laughlin because Pat Devlin was a 'bad man'. Though he didn't die for two more days after the trial for murder and was the first grave buried in the hard ground on the ridge above 31st Street.

History came alive on our Founders Day!

