

WEST WOOD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

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The Gardiner Tents of Monument Park

by Thomas E. Daniels

When driving around the Pikes Peak Region, have you ever noticed those funny looking storage sheds that are mostly in back yards which are octagonal shaped with a teepee style roof? Young people and newer residents of the area are likely to assume they are early versions of Tough Shed or were built by a children's playhouse company. You'd be wrong on both accounts, however the sheds did play a major role in the nation's healthcare one-hundred years ago!

Around the turn of the twentieth century, tuberculosis was the leading cause of death in the United States. In 1883, the Modern Woodmen of America was founded which was a fraternal organization that provided life insurance and other financial services to their

male members. There was no cure for TB at the time. Doctors prescribed a favorable climate, rest, a healthy lifestyle and abundant sunshine as the only means to slow or erase the deadly disease from the human body. It was determined at the time that Colorado had the best climate year round with it's cool dry air. Since about one in five persons in this country had some form of TB (many of those MWA members,) it would be prudent for the organization to help their members fight the disease, thus saving lives and keeping death claims down to a minimum. Between 1907 and 1909, the MWA constructed a 1,000-acre TB facility north of Old Colorado City and the Garden of the Gods in an area that was known at the time as Monument Park (not to be

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MWA Sanatorium in Woodman Valley with all 180 Gardiner tents

Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
http://www.occhs.org (719) 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@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	\$25	Business	\$50
Family	\$30	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	Sharon Swint	630-8384
Vice President	Janice deChadenades	598-7183
Secretary	Jo Cervone	266-9096
Treasurer	Suzanne Schorsch	488-0256
	Barbara Barbaro	748-3483
	Beverley Disch	634-5023
	Tom Hendrix	633-7392
	Phil McDonald	532-0881
	Dave Murray	488-0256

MEETINGS

OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is held at 11 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, except during June, July, and August. The History Center opens at 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting for refreshments and visitation. The program begins at 11 a.m. This meeting is free and open to the public.

WELCOME TO OCCHS! ~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Kay Atteberry

Charles Britton

Fred P. Clark

Marjorie Evans

Barbara Ewell

Shirley Fallis

Merrell Folsom

Missy Hollenbeck

Walter P. and Judy Johnson

Mary Beth McKnight

Donald H. Meyer

Marjorie Foust Phillips

Paul Shepard

Niente Smith

Carol Ann Tringali

In Memoriam

Norm Clark

November 13, 1933 - September 26, 2011

Westside businessman Norm Clark was a longtime member of the Old Colorado City Historical Society and a leader in the revitalization of Old Colorado City.

His family has suggested contributions to the Old Colorado City History Center in his memory.

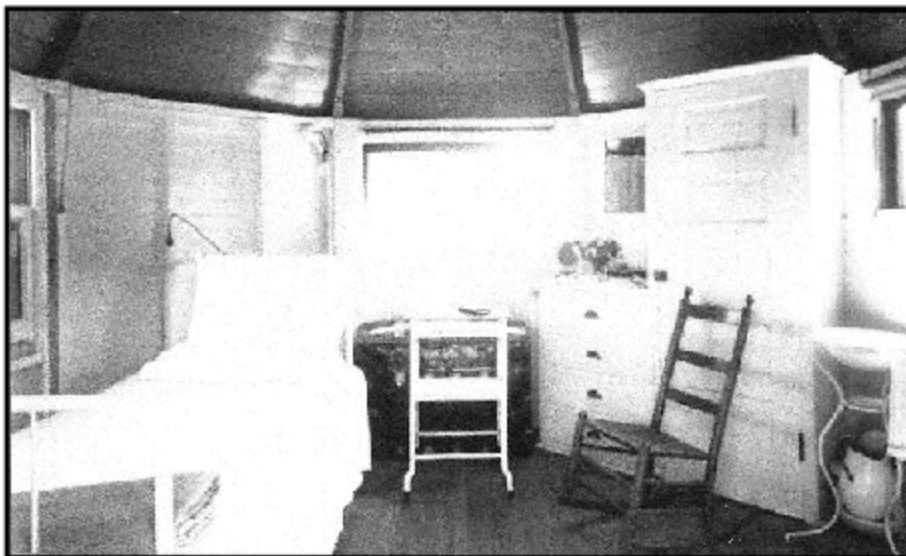
Our sincerest sympathy to his family.

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confused with Monument Valley Park that General Palmer built along Monument Creek in downtown Colorado Springs.)

Monument Park was a wide valley east of Blodget Peak and west of Pulpit Rock and situated on the west side of Monument Creek. In the 1850's, when it was sparsely populated by cattle ranchers and early settlers, it had been called Cedar Mountain Valley. By the time tourists showed up in the area, it was called Monument Park as that is how famed photographer William H. Jackson identified his photos of the sandstone monoliths that were located throughout the area. But because the MWA occupied the valley for nearly forty years with their sanatorium, it is now known today as Woodmen Valley.

The MWA complex was one of the most up-to-date facilities of its kind earning the title of the "most outstanding institution for the treatment of tuberculosis" by the American College of Surgeons. There were other



Typical interior view of a Gardiner tent

sanatoriums built in Colorado Springs, mainly the Cragmoor Sanatorium (which is now the Colorado Springs campus of Colorado University,) the Union Printers Home and the Glickner Sanatorium (which is now Penrose Hospital.) The MWA facility had a four story hospital for disabled patients, a hotel type structure for meeting rooms, eating hall, activity areas, library, etc. They had their own dairy farm, raised a lot of their own food, a complete power plant and many other amenities. But the most interesting structures were the 180 individual tents where patients, who were able, lived while receiving their treatment. These patients had to walk from their tents to the eating hall three times a day (in any type of weather,) walk to the one of two buildings within the tent area for restroom and bathing facilities, be able to carry a pail of coal to fire the heaters in their own tent and haul other items such as water, linens, towels and personal hygiene items to their tents as needed. The tents were designed by the head physician of the complex Dr. Charles F. Gardiner. And they really weren't tents at all. They were made out of wood with insulated walls. The eight-sided tents were about ten feet wide and about twelve feet high. Each unit had four windows, a solid front door and a ventilator on top of the teepee style roof to let plenty of Colorado air into the tent. One patient was assigned to each tent. Furnishings included a single bed, a rolling bedside cart, a chest of drawers, a closet, a wash basin, a coal stove (for



A typical Gardiner tent exterior

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heat,) a rocking chair and space for the patient's luggage and personal possessions. Many photos have survived showing a number of patients sitting outside their tents on a cold winter day, all bundled up and breathing in as much fresh air as their lungs would allow.

Did it work? In the 38 years the facility operated, 12,000 patients were treated and seventy percent of the patients were cured and sent back home. Antibiotics against the disease were developed just after World War II, and the facility was closed in 1948, after the last patients/members were sent home. The entire complex was sold to the Catholic Church where it became the St. Francis Convent which is still use today as a retreat and training center for young nuns just coming into the service. Many of the permanent buildings used by the MWA are still in use at the Convent.



On a farm near Security, CO



A backyard shed on the north end of Colorado Springs



Two tents were made into a store in Manitou Springs

But over the years, the individual Gardiner tents were sold, moved or torn down so other buildings, parking areas and grounds could be created. The MWA organization still flourishes today selling insurance and other services to its' more than 700,000 members and is headquartered in Rock Island, IL.

Many of the old Gardiner tents have survived and are in use all over the Pikes Peak region and on countless farms and ranches in eastern Colorado. Now that you know what you are looking for, maybe you can find some of your own. The photos within this story show how they were used during the MWA Sanatorium years and how people have saved some of them and put them to use today.

Thomas E. Daniels March, 2011



Interior of this tent hardly disturbed



*Penrose Hospital collected pieces of
an old tent and.....*



.....put it back together with complete renovation



*A tent turned into a cottage in
backyard near North Middle school*



*Rock Ledge Ranch uses one as their
main entrance*



*You can still find one FOR SALE
now and then*

*Celebrate
Laura Belle McDaniel's
150th Birthday*

with a Special Program by Jan MacKell

Jan's illustrated lecture will take us from Laura Belle's humble beginnings in Missouri to her life as a successful madam in Colorado City to her untimely death in a car accident near Castle Rock.

Friday, November 11

Reception & Refreshments - 6:30 P.M. Cost - \$3

Program - 7:00 P.M.

Old Colorado City History Center 1 S. 24th Street 636-1225



*Seventeenth Annual
Holiday Tour of Historic Places and B&B Inns*

*Presented by
Old Colorado City Historical Society
Sunday, December 4, 2011
1 P.m. to 5 P.m.*

<i>Old Colorado City History Center</i>	<i>1889</i>
<i>Blue Skies Inn/Carriage House</i>	<i>1873</i>
<i>Avenue Hotel Bed and Breakfast</i>	<i>1896</i>
<i>Old Town Guest House</i>	<i>1997</i>
<i>Onaledge</i>	<i>1912</i>
<i>Holden House Bed and Breakfast</i>	<i>1902</i>
<i>The Lennox House</i>	<i>1891</i>
<i>St. George's Anglican Church</i>	<i>1874</i>

*To get your tickets visit
one of the participating inns,
our Bookstore, or www.occhs.org.
Or call 719-636-1225*

Image adapted from a Hughes Collection photo

Honor Awarded to OCCHS and Friends of Red Rock Canyon

By Suzanne Schorsch

This past Friday the news came in that the Old Colorado City Historical Society and Friends of Red Rock Canyon were selected as the winners of the Caroline Bancroft History Award for 2011. The award, presented by the Colorado Historical Society of Denver is awarded annually to individuals, organizations or museums in Colorado that have made a major contribution during the year to advance Colorado History. Work completed in 2010 is awarded in 2011.

Colorado Historian Caroline Bancroft provided for monetary awards to be given by the Colorado Historic Society annually to a project, program, book or effort that promotes Colorado History and promotes public interest and involvement in history. This includes education programs, exhibits, research, and publications. *Geologic Folio, Red Rock Canyon Open Space, Colorado Springs, Colorado* written by Ken Weissenburger, Sharon Millito and Don Ellis was selected, along with the Old Colorado City Historical Society for writing, publishing, and promoting education regarding Red Rock Canyon. The Committee selected OCCHS and Friends of Red Rock Canyon from "stiff competition" said Elisa Phelps, Director of Collections and Library Division of the Colorado Historical Society. "We had more entries than ever before and the competition was stiff but the committee felt that the book did an outstanding job of tying together geology, history, architectural history, and natural history into an accessible, well-illustrated, and very comprehensive publication" Ms. Phelps wrote.

The award (which includes a \$1000 cash prize) was officially presented Thursday, October 27 at History Colorado's annual meeting.

When Ken Weissenburger, Sharon Millito and Don Ellis wrote the Red Rock Canyon book, it was a work of love for Colorado, history and our open spaces. All profits from this book have gone to the two non-for-profits. This award is well deserved for the efforts they have made to bring their interest to the public through their book and lectures they have given.

Caroline Bancroft (1900-1985) was a third generation Coloradan who first started writing history for The Denver Post in 1928. Her

grandfather Dr. F. J. Bancroft introduced her to western history. He was a founder of the Colorado Historical Society and its first president. Caroline Bancroft was literary editor of the Denver Post from 1928 to 1933. Caroline Bancroft received her Master's Degree in History from the University of Colorado and wrote many books regarding Colorado History. These books mostly dealt with the Tabors, Baby Doe, Molly Brown, with ghost towns, Leadville, Central City and with Colorado madams. In 1990 she was inducted into the Colorado Woman's Hall of Fame.

President's Report

OH MY GOSH! WE WON! OCCHS has been notified that we, along with Friends of Red Rocks Canyon, have won the Caroline Bancroft Award for 2011 for the book we published entitled *Geologic Folio: Red Rock Canyon Open Space, Colorado Springs, Colorado*. The award will be handed out at the History Colorado dinner and carries a \$1000 prize. Thanks to Suzie Schorsch for creating the submittal packet and to Ken Weissenburger, Sharon Millito, and Don Ellis for letting OCCHS publish their book.

It has been a month of loss for the OCCHS community. Agnes Johnson, former president of the board, and Norman Clark has both passed away. Each family requested that OCCHS receive memorial gifts in lieu of flowers for their loved ones. Thanks so much to these Westside families. We are honored by your confidence in us.

Some changes in the Board of Directors have occurred. Johnie Jackson has resigned feeling that he was overcommitted. Suzie Schorsch will step in as treasurer and Barbara Barbaro will take Johnie's place on the board. Phil McDonald who has committed to a hospice patient has stepped down as secretary. Jo Cervone will become our secretary. Both of these men are to be thanked for their service.

Former president Joanne Karlson is home recovering from a second brain surgery. Get well soon!

Don't forget Laura Belle's 150th birthday party on November 11 at 6:30 p.m. Be sure and come celebrate with us.

Sharon Swint, President
OCCHS Board of Directors

Suzanne Schorsch recently became OCCHS' Treasurer. We can expect the usual Treasurer's report again in the next West Word.

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

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November / December Calendar

Friday, November 11
6:30 P.M.
7:00 P.M.

Celebrating the 150th Birthday of Laura Belle McDaniel
Reception Refreshments including birthday cake
Program: Laura Belle McDaniel - Colorado City's Most Prominent Madam Jan MacKell Collins from the Cripple Creek Museum has spent over 15 years of researching Colorado madams. Jan will discuss the life and suspicious death of this soiled dove.

Sunday, December 4
1 - 5 P.M.

Holiday Tour of Historic Places and B&B Inns Featuring:
St. George' Anglican Church
Avenue Hotel
Blue Skies Inn
Holden House 1902 Bed and Breakfast
Lennox House Bed and Breakfast
Old Town Guest House
Onaledge

Tickets available at the bookstore

Old Colorado City History Center

1 S. 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904 - (719) 636-1225 - <http://www.occhs.org>

Museum Hours: Tues. thru Sat. 11 - 4 Free Admission. Donations greatly appreciated.